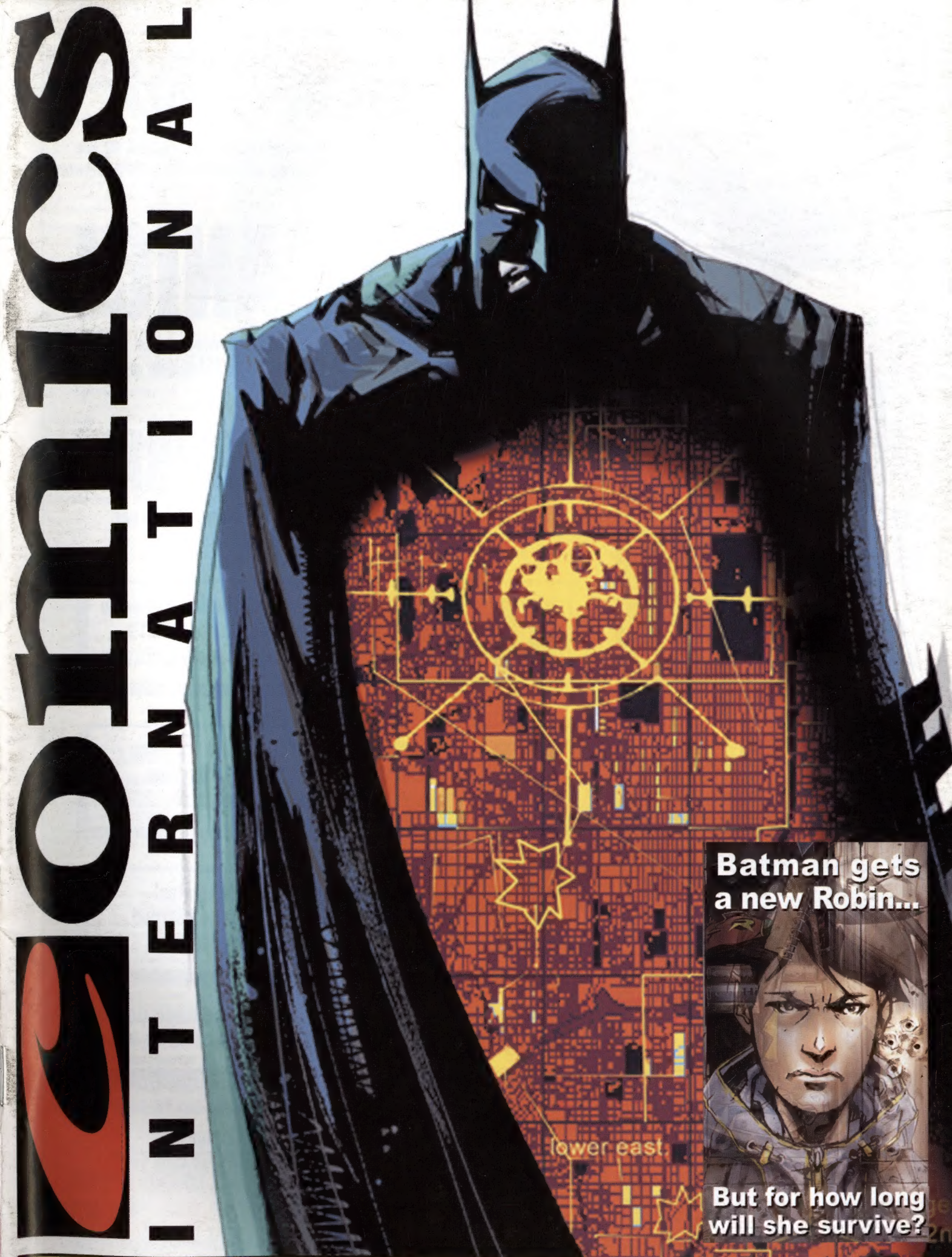
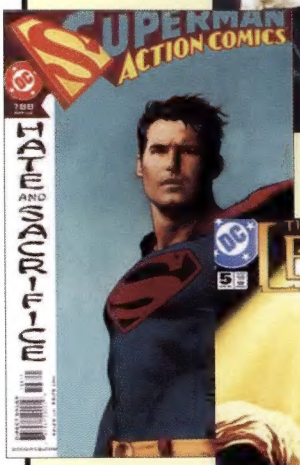
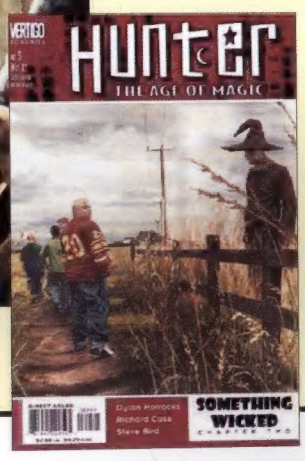
COMICS INTERNATIONAL



No. 173 £1.50/$2.50 (Can: $4.25) €2.75 Excluding local tax JULY 2004

AUSTRALIA...$4.50 CYPRUS...C£1.40 DENMARK...Kr18.75 GIBRALTAR...£1.60 HONG KONG...$16.50 ISRAEL...NIS9.50 JAPAN... Y285 MALAYSIA...RM8 MALTA...Lm1.00
NORWAY...Kr20.00 NEW ZEALAND...$5.00 POLAND...PLN6.50 SINGAPORE...$4.00 S. AFRICA...R12.50 SWEDEN...Kr20.00 SWITZERLAND...SF3.80 TURKEY...TL980000





MISS ALL OF THESE?

That's okay, so did everybody else. They don't exist, except on the drawing board of top UK talent John Watson and on Dez Skinn's computer.

DON'T PANIC!

Prevent such shocks to your system with the knowledge that you need never miss any new issues of your favourite titles ever again.

LET US DO THE WORK!

You're only three easy steps away from being able to get every issue, on time, always . . .

1 Set up a COMIC BIZ subscription! Phone us on 020 8446 3464 or fax us on 020 8446 2819 or send an e-mail to us at biz@comic-biz.com

2 Tell us the titles you collect and the issue numbers you'd like us to start from plus whether weekly or monthly despatch...

3 Now sit back and wait for your comics! Your credit/debit card will not be charged until the issues are despatched to you.

Alternatively, you can order titles and manage your own subscriptions through our website: www.comic-biz.com

If you haven't received the latest Comic Biz 40-page catalogue, call for your free copy!

"Probably Europe's Finest Subscription & Back Issue Service!"

COMIC BIZ

COMIC BIZ
FREEPOST LON 6797,
PO BOX 7041, LONDON N12 9BR

CARDS NOT DEBITED UNTIL DESPATCH!

Tel: 020 8446 3464. Fax: 020 8446 2819. Website: www.comic-biz.com Email: biz@comic-biz.com

Characters and logos copyright their respective publishers. Images copyright John Watson/Quality Communications

Comics International
comicsinternational@yahoo.co.uk

Editorial 01273 566 222
fax 01273 566 333
(from North America replace the 0 with: 011 44)
345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ

Comics International is published every four weeks by Quality Communications Limited and is printed by Scottish County Press (0131 663 2404)

Publisher/editor: Dez Skinn
Production: Loriann Luckings
News: Mike Conroy
Features: Steven Turner
Associate editor: Tim Pilcher
Listings: Jim Hannah
Assists: Carlie, Gary, Mark and Anton
Print Liaison: Jim MacDonald

Subscriptions 01621 877 231
8 Galliford Rd, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD
Subscriptions Manager: Joy Flood
UK ..... £21.50 (1st class) £18 (2nd class)
USA/Canada ..... $60 US (air) $40 US (sea)
Mainland Europe/Eire ..... £25/+50 (air only)
Australasia/Asia ..... £40 (air) £25 (sea)
All are 12-issue rates. Single or back issues at 1/12th of above

Advertising 01273 566 222
345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ

Insertions:	1 issue	6 issues	12 issues
*excluding VAT**	£ ($)	£ ($)	£ ($)
Full page	200(300)	175(250)	150(225)
Half page	110(165)	100(150)	90(135)
Quarter page	60 (95)	55 (80)	50 (75)
Colour page	350(525)	325(485)	300(450)
Colour half	175(250)	160(235)	150(220)
Colour quarter	90(135)	85(125)	80(120)

*UK: Please add 17.5% to above for VAT

All bookings are taken as run-of-paper.
Specific placing (when possible): above + 20%
Second colour: black and white rate + 20%

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Issue	Space	Copy	On sale
#174	June 21	June 28	July 9
#175	July 19	July 26	Aug 6
#176	Aug 9	Aug 16	Sept 3

Note: No responsibility can be taken for accuracy on in-house typesetting when artwork is not supplied.

ADVERTISING ARTWORK DIMENSIONS
(decimal inches & mm; height x width)
Full page (type area) ... 10.8x7.4" (275x188mm)
Full page (bleed area) ... 12.1x8.5" (307x215mm)
Half page (upright) .... 10.5x3.6" (267x92mm)
Half page (across) .... 5.1x7.4" (130x188mm)
Half page (3 columns) .... 7x5.4" (178x137mm)
Qtr page (2 columns) . 5.1x3.6" (130x92mm)
Qtr page (1 column) .. 10.5x1.7" (267x43mm)

Full payment must accompany all ad copy. Cancellations subject to 25% charge.

Series discount rates: Booking a 6 or 12-issue series of advertising forms a contract between advertiser and publisher. Cancellation of series before completion or late payment breaks this contract and allows publisher to charge published ads at single insertion rate. Repeat ad copy will be assumed unless new ad copy is received by above deadlines. The advertiser's acceptance of series discount acknowledges agreement with these terms.

Distribution 01621 877 231
CI, 8 Galliford Rd, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD

Available direct to UK retailers, minimum bulk order 25 copies to receive wholesale discount. Copies are despatched free by courier to arrive simultaneously at all retail outlets. Comics International is also available to the trade internationally from Diamond Comics Distributors (UK tel: 01925 401400; US tel: 1-410 560 7112)

All illustrations reproduced herein remain the property of their respective copyright holders and are used only in a news or review capacity. No infringement of copyright is intended.

QUALITY Communications

Publishers of award-winning magazines since 1977... "People recognise Quality"

#173 JULY 2004

Inside this issue

COVER: Following the recent boosts DC has given its Dark Knight, another major push begins in August as the three-month *War Games* event kicks off in Devin Grayson's **Batman: The 12c Adventure**. Co-starring the new Robin, the one-time Spoiler – Stephanie Brown, tragedy is again threatened for the Bat-family as DC admits this latest recruit's first solo mission seems easy but soon turns deadly. See page 14.

News

NEWS INTERNATIONAL: Former DC president claims rights to first Silver Age hero... 9/11 tragedy prompts **Maus** creator's return to comics... **X-Statix** artist adapts **Book of Mormon**... ***Metal Gear Solid*** comes to comics... Dark Horse launches pop culture and prose imprints... Lucifer writer takes on **Ultimate Elektra**... **Planetary** artist's French graphic novel translated... Wally Wood's Gold Key SF comics collected... IDW brings Greek mythology to mid-West... Warren Ellis offers up Marvel **Ultimate Nightmare**... Grimjack returns... *War Games* commence in Bat-titles... Chris Claremont brings **End** to Marvel's mutants... Neil Gaiman revisits **Books of Magick**...Rogue gets solo series... Dark Horse offers graphic novel adaptation of *Aliens vs Predator* movie... plus much more. 5
PREVIEW: While UK news trade sales continue to dwindle, comics' indie boom marches on. Latest contender, **Brodie's Law**, is previewed this month. 16
FRAME TO FRAME: Comics to movies. Mike Conroy comments on some of the latest projects in the pipeline. 22

Regulars

TALKING SHOP: Cutting edge retailer Stephen Holland takes a look at comicshop discrimination. 24
NETWORKS: Chris Rice's round-up of news and gossip from the Internet, plus Rich Johnston's *In the Gutter* and Chris Bunting's *Comics Webworld*. 26
NOVEL GRAPHICS: Paul Gravett on Hellboy's Mike Mignola. 39
BIFF'S ILLUMINATIONS: Highlights from July 2004 shipping titles 41
REVIEWS: Capsule critiques of the best (and worst) of this month's titles.. 48

Listings

ADVANCE LISTINGS: US and international English-language comics on sale in specialist shops in July, plus the month's UK newsstand titles. 40
EVENTS GUIDE: Key comics events in the next six months. 66

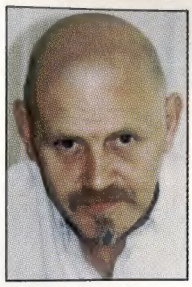
Reader Access

COMMENT: Sound off in print. A soapbox for your moans, groans or platitudes about the comics industry 29
LETTERS: Readers' writes plus Mike Kazybrid's *Comic Cuts* 57
CLASSIFIED: Comics for Sale, Comics Wanted, Small Press Listings and General Announcements 65

Directory

WEBSITE INDEX: Comics creators, publisher and back issue dealer links 59
RETAIL INDEX: The most comprehensive listing of international comics stores 60
WORLD FESTIVAL GUIDE: Leading comics events in the year ahead 62
PUBLISHER INDEX: Details of top US, UK, French and Italian publishers 63
MAIL ORDER INDEX: Postal specialists for comics and peripherals 56

Sez Dez



Editorial
Dez Skinn

FORGET THE usual themed editorials, this month I'm taking advantage of my chunk of page 3 to fill you in on a handful of totally non-related items.

Items like the best gag of the recent Bristol Comics Festival... featuring visiting dignitary David (**Ultimate X-Men**) Finch. Wot? A US Marvel artist was there? Oh, yes. But for those who attended the Marvel panel and wondered why it was a Brit-only event, it wasn't Finch copping out. No way. He spent the entire weekend sketching and signing to many a fan's delight. It's just that nobody asked him to attend the Marvel panel. But that's not the main story.

What is concerns his hotel room. Seems the organisers booked a twin for Finch plus one, so when the wee small hours came around and Finch plus two wanted to hit the sack, they did the sensible thing and called reception for a portable bed to be sent up. A z-bed, as we know such.

But they don't call them that in North America. Oh, no. So the porter took up exactly what they'd ordered, knocked, and walked in to ask of three adult males, "So which of you wants the cot?"

Separated only by a common language indeed. Ever realised that we can pay a bill with a cheque, and Americans can pay a check with a bill? Rum, eh?

But outside of such nit-picking, first-timer Finch slotted in well with the ruling chrome dome set of UK comics. Being a fellow shaver he fitted in far better than Simon Bisley who's getting there, but still needs to drop a couple of points on his razor settings. The Biz was on form though, spending a macho drunken Saturday night comparing tattoos and biceps with the **CI** posse. Trust me, you don't want to fall on to our aged debt lists.

Moving on, I've got to admit that, in the wake of the Don Lawrence books, I'm most proud of our new "Captain Company" move, in the tradition of one Jim Warren. For the last few years, North Carolina's TwoMorrows have been producing some stunning books and magazines about comics. But, possibly lost in the wake of the ever-expanding Bat-, X- and Spider-franchises, you've rarely seen their wares over here. Until now. We've tied up a deal with head honcho John Morrow to offer their full range to our readers.

Check out their impressive line in this issue's centre eight pages. OK, so we've snuck a few of our own titles in too, but you've got to admit, they're in damn good company!

Comics International *editor Dez Skinn's career in the industry spans 30 years. Titles he has created include* ***Doctor Who Weekly***, ***House of Hammer***, ***Hulk Comic***, ***Starburst*** *and* ***Warrior***. *Ex-editorial director of Marvel UK – where his Stan Lee-coined Sez Dez column had a monthly audience of over 500,000 – he has also edited titles including* ***Buster***, ***Conan, MAD***, ***Star Wars Weekly***, ***2000 AD Presents***, ***Rogue Trooper*** *and* ***Spider-Man*** *and won over 20 Eagle Awards. His co-created* ***V for Vendetta*** *is still in option limbo at Warner Bros. Zzzzz!*

the world's largest chain of sci-fi, comic and entertainment stores...

ABERDEEN
12-14 Schoolhill
01224 622131

BELFAST
47 Winetavern St.
02890 438744

CARDIFF
5 Duke Street
02920 228885

EDINBURGH
40-41 South Bridge
0131 558 8226

GLASGOW
168 Buchannan Street
0141 3311215

LEEDS
30 Eastgate
The Headrow
0113 2426325

MANCHESTER
65 Oldham Street
Piccadilly
0161 8394777

MIDDLESBROUGH
41 Dundas Street
01642 248889

NOTTINGHAM
129 Middle Walk
Broadmarsh Centre
0115 9584706

SHEFFIELD
12 Matilda Street
Off the Moor
0114 276 9475

DUBLIN
5-6 Crampton Quays
0035 316710688

NEW YORK
840 Broadway
(at 13th Street) 10003
(001) 212 4731576

BIRMINGHAM
Nostalgia & Comics
14-16 Smallbrook
Queensway
0121 6430143

LIVERPOOL
Worlds Apart
58-60 Lime St
0151 7070839

plus five new ANOTHER WORLD stores

ANOTHER WORLD HANLEY STOKE ON TRENT
48 Stafford St
(01782) 279294

ANOTHER WORLD LEICESTER
23 Silver St
(0116) 2515266

ANOTHER WORLD NOTTINGHAM
11 Market St
(0115) 9484122

ANOTHER WORLD DERBY
42-43 Castlefields Main Centre
(01332) 206606

ANOTHER WORLD WOLVERHAMPTON
23 Victoria St
(01902) 717440

forbiddenplanet
international
comics

25% off

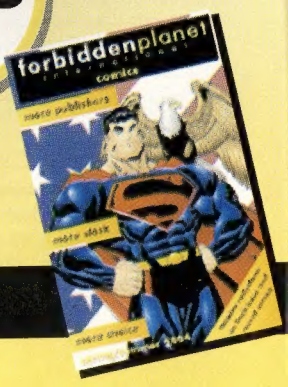
Advance order Comics!

order your comics early on-line and get a massive 25% off the normal cover price

on-line ordering
www.forbiddenplanet.co.uk
or email us:
sales@forbiddenplanet.co.uk

DC · DARK HORSE COMICS · IDW · MARVEL · DMI

plus many many more



also receive a copy of our back issue comic catalogue with your order (while stocks last)

this discount offer is only available to on-line advance comic orders.

Former president sues DC for rights to Silver Age hero

THE FLASH
FLASH COMICS
ASH COMICS
SPLANG
CRAAAAK
THIS IS THE STARTLING TALE OF THE FLASH -- A MAN WHO WAS SO FAST THAT HE NOT ONLY OUTRACED HIS SHADOW -- BUT ALSO BROKE THROUGH THE SOUND BARRIER -- ON FOOT ! BUT WHAT HAPPENS TO THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE WHEN HE BATTLES THE SLOWEST MAN ON EARTH ? IS HIS INCREDIBLE SPEED A HELP -- OR A HINDRANCE ? HOLD ON TO YOUR SEAT FOR THE AMAZING ANSWER AS YOU READ...
MYSTERY OF THE HUMAN THUNDERBOLT!

Above: Carmine Infantino and Joe Kubert's splash page marks the initial appearance of DC's second Flash – regarded by many comics historians as the first Silver Age superhero – in 1956's ***Showcase*** *#4. Below: The American public got its first glimpse of Timely's star spangled superhero on the cover to 1941's* ***Captain America Comics*** *#1; art by Joe Simon and Jack Kirby.*

Carmine Infantino lays claim as creator of second Scarlet Speedster as well as 1967 incarnation of Batgirl

WITH character licensing becoming an ever more important revenue source, an increasing number of comics creators have tried to claim ownership of heroes they have conceived at various points in their careers.

The latest of these is Carmine Infantino, who is following the lead set by Joe Simon *[see below]*, Steve Gerber, Marv Wolfman and, of course, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, all of whom either lost or failed to win a a comprehensive victory .

Now retired, Infantino entered the industry as an artist in 1942. In 1967 he became DC's editor-in-chief. Promoted to publisher in 1971 and president three years later, he quit in 1976.

And Batgirl, too

In a lawsuit filed in Manhattan federal court the 79-year old native New Yorker claims he was commissioned to revive the Flash and that he, not DC parent Time Warner Inc, owns the rights to the Scarlet Speedster. In his suit, Infantino also claims he is the creator of the second Batgirl – the Barbara Gordon incarnation, not the earlier Betty Kane version. He is seeking monetary damages and a ruling that he owns the Flash, Batgirl and other characters he says he created from 1943 to 1967.

Interestingly, Infantino appears to have undermined his case with a statement he made in his autobiography, **The Amazing World of Carmine Infantino**.

In that 2000 Vanguard title he clearly states the creation of the Silver Age Flash was a group effort. He says he came on board to design the costume after editor Julie Schwartz and writer Robert Kanigher had already completed the first script, which appeared in 1956's **Showcase** #4.

Captain Whiz

Infantino tells a somewhat different story to Arlen Schumer for that author's Collectors Press 2003 title – **The Silver Age of Comic Art**. He tells Schumer that, with the industry in deep recession in 1954-55, he created Captain Whiz and the Colours of Evil – the hero's own group of villains, – in an attempt to improve his own situation.

"Then," explains the artist, "when Bob Kanigher came up with the new Flash in 1956, he came to visit me and said, 'What about using some of that stuff you already did? These were all the characters that eventually became the Flash and all his villains. Captain Whiz's costume was almost exactly the same."

Golden Age creator settles with Marvel

ACCORDING to the history books, Joe Simon and Jack Kirby created Captain America between them, introducing the patriotic superhero in the 1941 first issue of his own Timely title.

Simon, no Kirby

In 1999, Simon attempted to regain the rights from the company, which had metamorphosed into Marvel Comics. He claimed that he alone came up with the character, which he then brought to Timely publisher Martin Goodman. He had made a similar attempt to regain the rights in 1966 but lost.

Signed admission

He lost again this time but, in 2002, Marvel's victory was overturned on appeal. This freed Simon to once again pursue his claim even though – as a result of the earlier case – he had signed an admission that he had created Captain America specifically for Timely under a work for hire-style agreement.

Simon and Marvel finally managed to resolve their differences but the short announcement revealed no details of the agreement: "The specific terms of the settlement are confidential; however, the settlement included Mr Simon's assignment to Marvel of any and all copyrights he has in Captain America."

Valuable property

What the now 88-year-old writer/artist got out of the deal is obviously unknown but Marvel was clearly able to establish (buy?) ownership of a valuable property.

Allred to adapt Book of Mormon

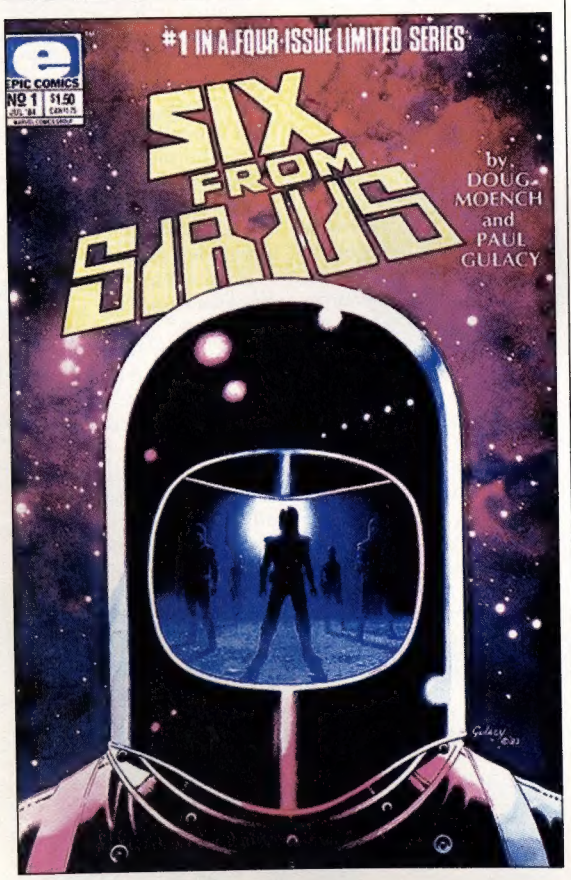
FOLLOWING Marvel's cancellation of **X-Statix**, artist Mike Allred is returning to self-publishing.

A member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the **Madman** creator is planning to adapt **The Book of Mormon** into an ongoing series. Entitled **The Golden Plates: The Shape of All Things**, it debuts through the cartoonist's own AAA Pop Comics in October.

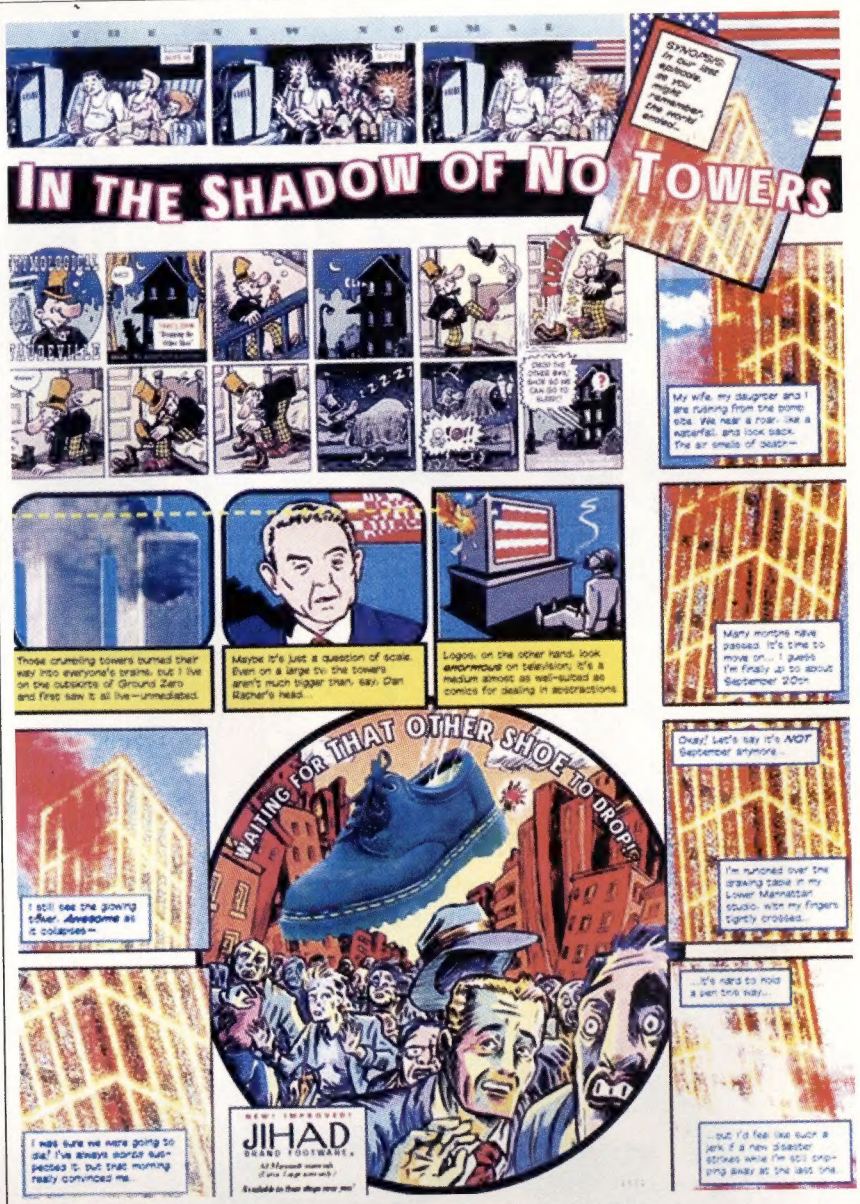
Above: Mike Allred art from ***The Golden Plates: The Shape of All Things****.*

While the Mormons describe their book as a companion to the Old and New Testaments found in the Christian Bible, Allred offers a more commercial slant: "Think *It's A Wonderful Life* meets **Conan the Barbarian**. There's no other book that is so rich with adventure, action, romance, courage, beauty and spiritual enlightenment; at least, none that I'm aware of. At the very least it's a phenomenal story rich with visual power. So, if I pull it off, it'll be the most significant thing I'll ever be a part of."

Stressing that he is not planning a dry **Classics Illustrated** adaptation, the cartoonist said, "Let's be clear, there are bloody, bloody events depicted here. That's my biggest struggle at this point. Where is the line between authenticity and good taste?"



MOVING ever further into publishing as opposed to creating comics collectables, New Jersey-based Dynamic Forces is planning an as-yet unscheduled hardcover collecting a creator-owned series by the acclaimed 1970s ***Master of Kung Fu*** *team of writer Doug Moench and artist Paul Gulacy. Described by Moench as an old-school space opera action-adventure with more than a few modern twists, the four-issue* ***Six from Sirius*** *was originally released through Marvel's Epic imprint in 1984.*



Post 9/11 rage prompts Maus creator's return

THE TRAUMATIC events of September 11, 2002 have brought Art Spiegelman back to creating comics.

Since 1992, when he completed **Maus**, his Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel, Spiegelman has spent most of his time writing essays and drawing covers for the **New Yorker** although he also produced Chronicle Books' **Jack Cole and Plastic Man: Forms Stretched to their Limits** [2001] with designer Chip Kidd.

Bush cabal

His post 9-11 experiences have led the cartoonist to become increasingly upset with his own government. "I hadn't anticipated that the hijackings of September 11 would themselves be hijacked by the Bush cabal that reduced it all to a war recruitment poster..."

Big Brother

"When the government began to move into full dystopian Big Brother mode and hurtle America into a colonialist adventure in Iraq – while doing very little to make America genuinely safer beyond confiscating nail clippers at airports — all the rage I'd suppressed after the 2000 election, all the paranoia I'd barely managed to squelch immediately after 9/11, returned with a vengeance," proclaimed the former underground comix artist, who stresses he never had any desire to become a political cartoonist.

Spiegelman's rage at the direction the United States was taking manifested itself as *In the Shadow of No Towers*, a series of 9¾x14½" full colour two-page spreads in a format that echoes the early newspaper comics.

Small circulation

To be collected in a $19.95, 42-page Pantheon Books hardcover this September, the *In the Shadow of No Towers* strips are a mix of early 20th century cartoon characters and 21st century political controversy. Their polemic resulted in only one mainstream US newspaper, the small circulation weekly **Forward**, originally having the courage to carry them.

CALAMITY COMICS

COMICS

GRAPHIC NOVELS

C.C.Gs

GAMES

MAGAZINES

ACTION FIGURES

TRADING CARDS

BOOKS

DVDs

POSTERS

JOKES

TOYS

COMIC SUPPLIES

OUR WATFORD STORE IS MOVING TO NEW BIGGER AND BETTER PREMISES!

GRAND OPENING SATURDAY 26th JUNE

Come along and enter our sensational prize draw with over £1000 worth of prizes!

Including ltd edition statues, Dynamic Forces comics, DVDs, CCGs and action figures!

FREE AND EASY TO ENTER, THE PRIZE DRAW WILL TAKE PLACE IN STORE ON THE DAY AT 4:00pm

PLUS...

FIRST 100 PEOPLE THROUGH THE DOOR WILL GET A **FREE GOODIE BAG!**

DOORS OPEN AT 9:30am

162 HIGH STREET
WATFORD WD17 2EG
(01923) 249293

www.calamitycomics.com

In Brief

WITCHBLADE is to get a new creative team this October.

Former Green Lantern and Sigil writer Ron Marz is taking over the Image/Top Cow title along with a Korean-American artist Michael Choi, who assisted Marc Silvestri on New X-Men #151-154. The new team comes on board with Witchblade #80.

HELLSHOCK creator and **Inhumans** artist Jae Lee is to join **Incredible Hulk** writer Bruce Jones on a six-parter, which is to feature a battle between Marvel's Green Goliath and the Thing.

Set to launch in September, the as-yet untitled miniseries is to disrupt frequency of the parent title, **Incredible Hulk**, replacing it on the schedules for the duration of its six month run.

DEVIL'S Due has in the pipeline a sequel to its recent **G.I. Joe/ Transformers** crossover.

Set to premiere in September, this new miniseries is written by Dan Jolley. It is drawn by Tim Seeley and E J Su, who are splitting the art chores between them. Seeley is concentrating on the figures while Su provides the mechanicals and backgrounds.

ALTHOUGH **Runaways** is to be cancelled in September with #18, Marvel has plans to revive the Brian K Vaughn-written title next year.

STRAY Bullets creator David Lapham is writing and drawing a four-issue serial that begins in issue #18 of Image/Top Cow's **Darkness**.

HELLBLAZER #200 will feature past, present and future versions of the same story.

Written by series regular Mike Carey, it is described as one bad Groundhog Day – the same day, played out in three different ways, depending on how John Constantine's life might have gone. The anniversary issue – which ships in September – is illustrated by Steve Dillon (past), Marcello Frusin (present) and Leonardo Manco (future).

J MICHAEL Straczynski has signed exclusively to Marvel, which is to launch the *Babylon 5* creator's long-promised **Doctor Strange** miniseries in September.

According to editor-in-chief Joe Quesada, some years ago the **Amazing Spider-Man** scribe wrote a screenplay for a movie featuring Marvel's Master of the Mystic Arts. It is this he has broken down and adapted into a *Year One*-style story.

"It's a real ground-level take on the character," is how Quesada described the series, which, it is strongly rumoured, is to be illustrated by Brandon (**Uncanny X-Men**) Peterson.

*Above: The cover to the first issue of IDW's **Metal Gear Solid**; art by Ashley Wood.*

IDW adds computer gaming top-seller

KRIS Oprisko is certainly developing a reputation as the man to go to bring a computer game to comics.

Having already worked on **Resident Evil**, **Future Cop L.A.P.D.** and **Mace: Bounty Hunter**, the writer and IDW vice-president is to adapt Konami's hugely-popular ***Metal Gear Solid*** in collaboration with Ashley Wood, the Australian artist probably best-known for his work on various Todd McFarlane **Spawn** titles.

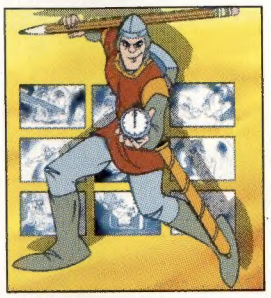
The series begins with Solid Snake, the world's foremost expert in infiltration and espionage, sent in to tackle a squad of genetically-enhanced terrorists, who are threatening to bring nuclear devastation to the US.

***Metal Gear Solid** #1, priced $3.99, ships in August.*

Prose for Dark Horse

WITH such pop culture titles as **Comics: Between the Panels** and **Bettie Page: Queen of Hearts** already to its credit, Dark Horse is creating a dedicated imprint for similar books.

Lined up first from DH Press is **Don Bluth's The Art of Storyboard**. Shipping on September 29, the $14.95 softcover is to be followed by Brad Strickland and Joe De Vito's **Kong: King of Skull Mountain** and then by Jim Silke's **Pin Up: The Illegitimate Art**.



Dark Horse is also debuting its M Press in September.

This imprint is to publish prose stories beginning with **Shanghai Diary**, the true story of a Jewish girl's experiences in 1930s Shanghai.

*Shown left is Don Bluth's cover art for his 8x11½" DH Press softcover, the 112-page **Art of Storyboard**.*

Lucifer writer focuses on Ultimate Elektra

*Above: Salvador Larroca's art for the cover to the first issue of Marvel's **Ultimate Elektra** five-parter.*

MIKE Carey is writing a sequel to Greg Rucka's four-issue **Ultimate Daredevil and Elektra**.

A Marvel five-parter, **Ultimate Elektra** is drawn by Salvador Larroca, who illustrated the Rucka prequel.

Carey, who also writes **Lucifer** and **Hellblazer**, says his series kicks off soon after the earlier mini, with Matt and Elektra still in their freshman year at Columbia.

After explaining that Elektra's father is still without any form of income after his store was burned down and that Elektra and Matt are still behind their separate barricades, unwilling or unable to talk to each other about what has happened between them, Carey added, "Then things take a sudden turn for the worse as Mister Natchios makes some bad decisions, Elektra gets sucked into them and Matt finds himself protecting a small-time gangster who's decided to turn state's evidence".

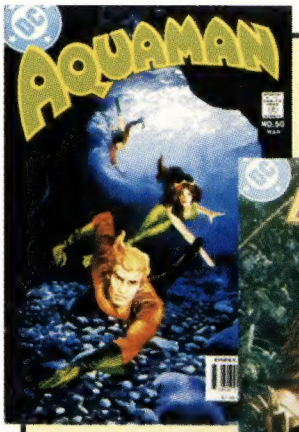
***Ultimate Elektra** #1, priced $2.25, ships on August 25.*

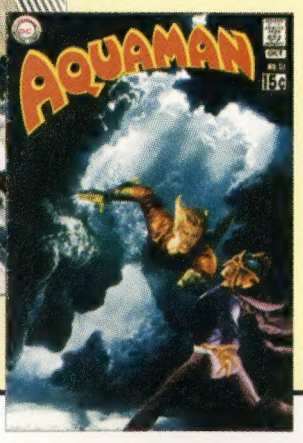
*DC IS concluding its tribute to Julie Schwartz with four August-shipping $2.50 **DC Comics Presents...** one-shots. Each features two new stories by*

different creative teams and inspired by covers conceived by the recently-deceased editor. Pictured from the top is the cover

*art for **The Atom** #1 (by Brian Bolland – a recreation of **The Atom** #10); **The Flash** #1 (Alex Ross – **The Flash** #163); **Justice League of America** #1*

*(José Luís Garcia-Lopéz – **Justice League of America** #53) and **Superman** #1 (Adam Hughes – **Superman** #264).*





HALF PRICE SALE NOW ON: www.comic-biz.com

MISS ALL OF THESE BACK ISSUE GEMS?

That's okay, so did everybody else. They don't exist, except on the drawing board of top UK talent John Watson and on Dez Skinn's computer.

DON'T PANIC!

Prevent such shocks to your system with the comfort of being on the database of one of the industry's leading back issue dealers.

LET US DO THE WORK!

You're only three easy steps away from being able to fill those annoying gaps in your back issue comics collection . . .

1 Get in touch with COMIC BIZ! Phone us on 020 8446 3464 or fax us on 020 8446 2819 or send an e-mail to us at biz@comic-biz.com

2 Send us your Wants List, for us to enter and match with our state-of-the-art computerised inventory and price guide.

3 Now sit back and wait for the results. We'll fill your gaps to suit your pocket across your required time frame.

Alternatively, you can enter your wants list and order online at our secure website: www.comic-biz.com

If you haven't received the latest Comic Biz 40-page catalogue, call for your free copy!

"Probably Europe's Finest Subscription & Back Issue Service!"

COMIC BIZ™

COMIC BIZ
FREEPOST LON 6797,
PO BOX 7041, LONDON N12 9BR

VISA MasterCard DELTA

CARDS NOT DEBITED UNTIL DESPATCH!

Tel: 020 8446 3464. Fax: 020 8446 2819. Website: www.comic-biz.com Email: biz@comic-biz.com

Characters and logos copyright their respective publishers. Images copyright John Watson/Quality Communications

WHATEVER COMICS

Established 1989

Latest Imports

Graphic Novels

Vast Selection of Back Issues

Merchandise

Small Press Titles

Standing Order Service

PLUS A WHOLE LOT MORE . . .

INTO TOYS AND ACTION FIGURES? HOW ABOUT . . .

Marvel Select
DC Direct
Elite Force
Dragon Models
McFarlane Toys
Mini-busts
Heroclix
Bobble-heads
Living Dead dolls
The Simpsons
...and more!

Wall-to-wall action figures and toys at both of our stores

5 Middle Row, High St, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1TF
Tel: 01622 681041

2 Burgate Lane Canterbury, Kent CT1 2HH
Tel: 01227 453226

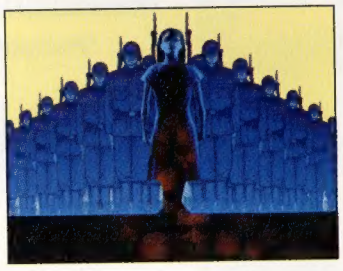
Both stores open Monday to Saturday 10am - 5.30pm

www.whatevercomics.com

WITH Konami developing a computer game based on CVO: Covert Vampiric Operatives, *IDW Publishing is bringing into print a strip it originally produced as an on-line exclusive for AOL's RED service. A $3.99 one-shot,* ***CVO: Covert Vampiric Operatives – Human Touch*** *features the story by Jeff (**Desperadoes**) Mariotte and artist Gabriel Hernandez – who worked with the writer on* ***CVO: Artifact*** *– in which the vampire agents working for the CIA attempt to shut down a secret North Korean nuclear weapons facility but bring the potential of nuclear annihilation a step closer. As a bonus, the August-shipping special also includes a new CVO short story written and drawn by series creator Alex (**Danger Girl**) Garner* [cover art, above].

Cassaday goes to war at Humanoids

UNDER the terms of a recently-signed licensing agreement, DC is to publish John Cassaday's first work for the Paris-based Les Humanoides Associes.



Above: John Cassaday's cover art for DC/Humanoids 64-page ***I am Legion: The Dauncing Faun****.*

Written by Fabien Nury, the **Planetary** and **Astonishing X-Men** artist's **I am Legion: The Dancing Faun** is a World War II story set during December, 1942.

Describing the scenario of the 64-page prestige format one-shot , Nury said, "The global conflict has reached a fever pitch. The Nazis are at the height of their power, but the Allies have had their first victories in Stalingrad and in the Pacific. Never has the war's outcome been so much in doubt.

"Unknown to the Allies, the Nazis have a secret weapon, a 10-year-old girl whose gifts could force them to their knees," he added.

I am Legion: The Dancing Faun*, priced $6.95, ships on August 18.*

Check out the amazing new-look website for...

SILVER ACRE

...at

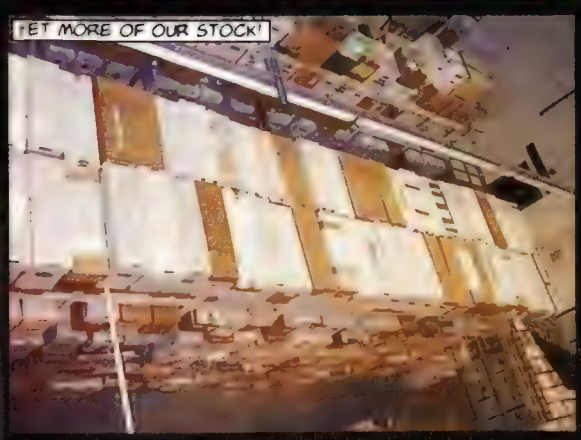
www.silveracre.com

Catalogue Choose from over 100,000 items listed in our easy-to-use online catalogue!

Looking to buy and sell? Then check our FREE classifieds to sell or pick up a bargain **Classifieds**

Deal of the Month The latest incredible Silver Acre bargains – all available to buy from this site

Can't find what you need? Use our simple online wants system and we'll do our best to track down those elusive issues for you **Wants List**



WE'RE HANDING OUT MONEY

Looking for cash? Despite having one of the most comprehensive stock lists in the world, WE NEED MORE COMICS! We have a massive buying budget available and want to buy YOUR collection! You've nothing to lose and everything to gain so phone, fax, write or e-mail us today. We'll travel almost anywhere to view!

SILVER ACRE COMICS, PO BOX 114, CHESTER CH4 8WQ

Tel: 01244 680048 Fax: 01244 680686 E-mail: sales@silveracre.com

In Brief

AFTER almost 30 years as a weekly tabloid newspaper, America's longest-running comics trade journal is to become a monthly.

Evidently affected by the drop in advertising revenue that has hit publishing across the board, **The Comic Buyer's Guide** is also being upgraded into a magazine, which is to include a regular and comprehensive price guide section. The changes kick in with the 244-page issue #1595, which ships in June, priced $5.99.

Now a Krause Publications title, **CBG** was launched as **The Buyer's Guide to Comics Fandom** – a bimonthly adzine – by Alan Light in 1971.

CROSSGEN has put **El Cazador**, one of the best-received of its recent launches, on hiatus.

The pirate comic, written by Chuck Dixon, comes to a halt in May with #6, the last issue drawn by Steve Epting, who has signed an exclusive contract with Marvel. His replacement on the $2.95 series has yet to be found by the cash-strapped Florida-based publisher.

WITH artist Tim Perkins set to replace Leonardo Manco on the Chuck Dixon-written **Raven House**, which premieres in August, the future of **Kiss Kiss Bang Bang** looks to be in jeopardy.

The July-shipping issue #7 of the $2.95 title – which Perkins created with writer Tony Bedard – has been cancelled by CrossGen without explanation.

IN THE wake of the controversy surrounding Micah Ian Wright's admission that he never served as a US Army Ranger, DC/WildStorm has elected to pull the plug early on the writer's **StormWatch: Team Achilles** series.

Recently announced as ending in July with #24, the $2.95 title is to conclude with #23, which ships on June 9.

Having moved from CrossGen to Marvel, former **Meridian** and **NYX** artist Joshua Middleton has now signed a two-year exclusive contract with DC, which has yet to announce details of his planned projects.

AFTER seven years with DC/WildStorm's Homage imprint, the Western/horror comic created by Jeff Mariotte and **Planetary** artist John Cassaday in 1997 is moving to IDW, where the writer is editor-in-chief.

Although no further details have been announced, a **Desperadoes** miniseries is being lined up to premiere towards the end of the year. It follows two previous five-parters– one drawn by Cassaday, the other by John Severin – and a 1999 one-shot.

Dark Horse reprints Wood SF classic

THE LATE Wally Wood drew for a host of comics publishers from EC to Marvel after he broke into the industry in 1950 but it his work on a series he created for Gold Key in 1965 that Dark Horse is showcasing in a 112-page softcover.

Priced $12.95, the 7x10" **M.A.R.S. Patrol** reprints the first three issues of the title that began as **Total War** before getting rebranded with #3. It ships on September 29.

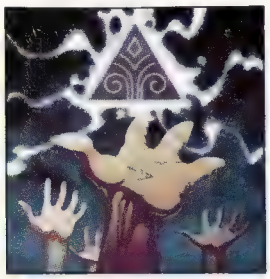
The comic features the Marine Attack Rescue Service, an elite team of the world's most skilled soldiers, brought together to battle mysterious alien invaders who threaten the planet.

*KATE WORLEY and Reed Waller, the former husband and wife writer/artist team behind the cult classic, **Omaha the Cat Dancer** are reuniting to conclude the story of their feline heroine they introduced in 1981 and left incomplete following the break up of their marriage. Unfortunately, Worley – who is now married to **Kings in Disguise** writer Jim Vance – is not only suffering from cancer but is also in a financially precarious position and this is slowing production.*

Marvel team debuts

EDITOR-turned-writer Marc Sumerak is joining forces with **Birds of Prey** penciller Casey Jones to introduce a new team into the Marvel Universe on July 14 in the $2.99 **Guardians** #1.

It features a group of disenchanted 20-somethings, who played at intergalactic superheroes as youngsters and got to help an alien in need. Now, 14 years later, he is back... because he believes they can save the universe.



*Above: Casey Jones cover art for the first issue of Marvel's **Guardians** five-parter.*

Greek gods hit Smalltown, USA

EL ZOMBO writer Kevin Munroe told **CI** his first solo project is an IDW series that blends elements of *The Last Man on Earth* and *The Omega Man* with *Ghostbusters* and Greek mythology.

Referring to **Olympus Heights**, the writer/artist said, "It's the story of Oliver Dobbs and how he discovers that his reclusive next door neighbour is in fact Zeus who has been living there for thousands of years."

As Munroe explained it, Zeus and the Olympians had defeated Hades and his army of monsters by sacrificing their godly powers and imprisoning their enemies in an earthen tomb as far away from Mount Olympus as possible, "smack dab in the middle of Indiana, USA."

Munroe added that since that time the immortals have regained their powers although all the family bar Zeus have moved away from Olympus Heights. But then Hades and his horde escape.

"It's a family reunion of mythological proportions as the Olympians come home to defend their town against Hades and his marauding army," claimed Munroe.

***Olympus Heights** #1, priced $3.99, ships in July.*

Ellis gives Marvel Ultimate Nightmare

WITH publication of his run on Marvel's **Ultimate Fantastic Four** just beginning, writer Warren Ellis is adding a second **Ultimate** project to his schedule.

Described as a five-parter which – as seems *de rigueur* for major comicbook events – is set to change the *Ultimate Universe* forever, **Ultimate Nightmare** is drawn by **Ultimate Six**'s Trevor Hairsine *[see first issue cover art, above]*.

Weird Unknown Event

Discussing the mini, Ellis said it is based on a story idea from Joe Quesada and was originally slated to be written by Mark Millar. "The basic idea is that a Weird Unknown Event disrupts all world communications systems, and that the epicentre of the disruption appears to be in the remote Tunguska region of Siberia.

"Exactly 100 years ago – in the Ultimate Universe timeline; I'm monkeying with actual history just a little – an object exploded over the Tungus River Valley," continued the **Transmetropolitan** and **Planetary** writer. "The Tunguska Event, as it's known, may have been an exploding meteorite, a comet strike, an anti-matter event – nobody knows.

"But," he added, "this disruptive signal is emanating from Tunguska Event Ground Zero, exactly 100 years later."

Telepathic wails

Continuing, Ellis said the Ultimates – the US superhuman defence initiative – send in a team to investigate and solve with extreme prejudice.

"Since they're without their Psi-Division of tame telepathic mutants, they're unaware that the signal also extends into neuro-readable frequencies," the writer explained. "The X-Men, believing that these are the telepathic wails of a traumatised mutant, send in a team, with no knowledge that the Ultimates are also en route.

"And none of them know what's really at Tunguska Ground Zero," added Ellis, who modestly said that people who like **Planetary** might get a kick out of this project.

***Ultimate Nightmare** #1, priced $2.25, ships on August 4.*

BUYING? SELLING?
Quicksilver COMICS
Don't you hate ordering by mail order or internet only to find the items are out of stock? Our website is updated EVERY DAY!
We offer a 24 hour UK delivery service! Can any other dealers match that?
We produce regular catalogues (at least six a year) to keep you up to date with the incredible range of Gold, Silver & Bronze Age books that we carry!
QUICKSILVER COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS
"Over the last few years, this catalogue has grown into the best and most diverse range of back issues I've ever seen" - C.Green, Grimsby
"Items came to my door in no time" - A.T., Glasgow
"I bought, then blinked, and they were delivered" - C.H., Cornwall
Phone, write or fax for your FREE catalogue now!
QUICKSILVER, PO BOX 73, OSSETT WF5 0YQ, W. YORKSHIRE
Tel: 01924 270500 Fax: 01924 270919
Or visit our ever-expanding website: www.qscomics.com

Forsaken at Image

Above: Delk, a protagonist of Image's ***Forsaken****, as drawn by series artist Kristian Donaldson.*

BLADE Runner meets *Alien Nation* is Image's description of **Forsaken**, the second project **Legacy's** Carmen Treffiletti has written for the California-based publisher.

"It revolves around the last city on Earth and its social and economical interdependence with an alien planet called Krelari," the writer explained.

Set in 2056, the $2.95 series debuts in August. It is drawn by newcomer Kristian Donaldson.

New Robin's career to be cut short?

THE first Bat-event since 2002's *Bruce Wayne: Murderer/Fugitive* has sent the rumour mill into overdrive.

Running for three months across all the main Bat-titles, *War Games* chronicles the bloody clash between the ruling crime factions of Gotham as they battle for control of the city.

With DC touting the event with the seemingly obligatory "will rock the very foundations of most Batman related titles" and suggesting that the body count will be high not only among the criminal fraternity but also within the Batman family, the odds are on the new [female] Robin being among the fatalities.

The opening chapter in the saga, **Batman: The 12-Cent Adventure** turns the spotlight on the Dark Knight's current sidekick – Stephanie Brown, the young girl who was, until her recent upgrade, known as Spoiler.

Shipping on August 4, the introductory episode is written by Devin (**Nightwing**) Grayson and drawn by the **Star Wars: Infinity's End** art team of Ramon Bachs and Raul Fernandez.

Shown above is Jason Pearson's cover to the issue, which leads into **Detective Comics** #797.

First hero resurfaces

IDW reunites John Ostrander and Tim Truman with their signature creation as collection of 1980s stories paves way for new series

IN LIMBO since the collapse of First Comics in 1991, Grimjack is being revived by IDW Publishing.

Freed from the legal entanglements that prevented publication of the dimension-hopping adventurer's stories, the rights have been returned to the anti-hero's creators – John Ostrander and Tim Truman.

IDW intends to collect the early stories – which appeared as backups in **Starslayer** – together with the full-length Starslayer/Grimjack crossover, which appeared in issue #18 of the Mike Grell title. Lined up for early next year, the trade paperback is also to include a new eight-pager by Ostrander and Truman. This is to feature characters who were introduced in the monthly **Grimjack** comic.

It is to be followed by a new **Grimjack** six-parter – co-published by Arrogant/MGMS – by Ostrander, Truman and two others who worked on the First series: letterer John Workman and editor Mike Gold.

Above: Tim Truman's painted artwork for the cover to IDW's October-shipping ***Grimjack*** *trade paperback.*

Grimjack Fact File

Grimjack first appeared as a backup in **Starslayer** #10 [1983]. After issue #18, he graduated to his own title, which ran 81 issues from 1984 to 1991 and spawned two spin-off **Munden's Bar Annuals** [1988 and 1991].

In 1990 came **Grimjack Casefiles** – a reprint title that lasted only six issues – and a **Grimjack: Demon Knight** graphic novel.

The **Grimjack** concept is encapsulated in the hero's comments on his locale. "Cynosure. Sweet, cynical Cynosure – where the dimensions meet. Magic works here, science works there, swords work everywhere."

Above: Greg Land's art for the cover to Book One – ***Dreamers & Demons*** *#1, the first issue of Marvel's six-part* ***X-Men: The End****.*

End for Marvel's mutants

HAVING already published **The End** of the Punisher, Wolverine and its entire Universe, Marvel is calling upon Chris Claremont to write the final chapter in the story of its mutant heroes.

Pencilled by Sean (**Iron Man**) Chen, **X-Men: The End** is a six-parter that encompasses the entire X-Men canon. It consists of a trilogy of two-issue stories.

X-Men: The End *Book One –* ***Dreamers & Demons*** *#1, priced $2.99, ships on August 4.*

Gaiman revises Books of Magick

VERTIGO is taking another stab at making Timothy Hunter a comicbook star and this time it is bringing in the big guns to raise the profile of the young wizard's title.

Introduced in 1990's four issue **The Books of Magic**, the British boy destined to become the world's greatest mage was created by **The Sandman**'s Neil Gaiman and artist John Bolton. Gaiman is returning to launch a now 19-year-old cooler Hunter in an ongoing series entitled **The Books of Magick: Life during Wartime**.

The comic, which is set 10 minutes into the future, in alternate universes where battles on Earth and Faerie overlap, is being written by *Eastenders* scripter Si Spencer. Gaiman, who has plotted the comic's first story arc, is serving as consultant on the series, which centres around a magical war. John Constantine and Zatanna are living under siege and it falls to Hunter to save them.

Illustrated by **Lucifer**'s Dean Ormston, **Books of Magick** features covers by Frank Quitely *[see first issue art, above]*.

● Vertigo relaunched **Books of Magic** in 1994. Cancelled in 2000 after 75 issues, it was followed in 2001 by **The Names of Magic**, a five-part prelude to **Hunter: The Age of Magic**, which lasted 25 issues until 2003.

***The Books of Magick: Life during Wartime** #1, priced $2.50, ships on July 8.*

Rogue goes it alone

AFTER two solo miniseries, the X-Men's southern belle is being given her own monthly title.

Written by **Codename: Knockout**'s Robert Rodi, **Rogue** is illustrated by **Buffy the Vampire Slayer**'s Cliff Richards.

Rodi's first major Marvel work, the six-issue **Identity Disc**, has just been released. The writer said of **Rogue**, "We're going to try for a different tone from the other X-books; a more southern gothic kind of feel."

*Above: Rodolfo Migliari's art for the cover to first issue of **Rogue**, Marvel's latest title to star the mutant southern belle.*

Past uncovered

"We take some pains to re-introduce Rogue in the first issue: lay out both who she is – a young mutant who absorbs the memories, talents and powers of others through touch – and how she feels about it... not very happy," the writer explained. "It's about Rogue. Which may seem obvious, or flip – except it really is about her, in a way that none of her previous solo series have been. We'll be digging deep into her past; we'll see her family for the first time, we'll finally learn her real name, and we'll discover that the sudden onset of her mutant powers wasn't the only thing that drove her away from home."

Rodi also plans to address how Rogue will deal with the return of her powers after being able to have a normal romantic relationship with fellow mutant, Gambit.

***Rogue** #1, priced $2.99, ships on July 28.*

It's Aliens vs Predator, again

IN 1990, two deadly species of movie creature were brought into conflict in a Dark Horse miniseries, which proved hugely popular and spawned five sequels published between 1995-96.

After 14 years, 20th Century Fox has finally been able to bring the **Aliens vs Predator** concept to the big screen and it is only fitting that Dark Horse should acquire the rights to produce comics based on the movie, which premieres in the US on August 13.

*Above: David Michael Beck's painted cover art for **Aliens vs Predator: Thrill of the Hunt**, Dark Horse's 96-page movie tie-in.*

Subtitled **Thrill of the Hunt**, Dark Horse's first tie-in is a 96-page softcover in the 5¼x7½" manga or digest format. It is written by **Lone Wolf 2100**'s Mike Kennedy with art by Roger Robinson, whose credits include DC's **Azrael** and **Batman: Gotham Knights**.

"This book has very little to do with the film outside of the relationship it establishes between the two species," explained Kennedy. "Our story takes place a few hundred years in the future, as opposed to the contemporary setting of the film.

"Both stories will support and complement each other without giving each other's secrets away," he added.

***Aliens vs Predator: Thrill of the Hunt**, priced $6.95, ships on September 1.*

In Brief

VISITORS to Book Expo America – held in Chicago over the weekend of June 5-6 – got an indication of the type of titles DC plans to publish under its manga imprint, CMX.

On display at the DC booth were **Gals** by Mihona Fujii (from **Shueisha**); Miyuki Takahashi's **Musashi #9** (from **Akita Shoten**) and **Madara** by Sho-u Tajima and Eiji Otsuka (from **Kadokawa Shoten**). DC declined to provide any further details.

STICKING with the BEA, Mark Crilley walked away with the gold in **ForeWord Magazine**'s 2003 Graphic Novel Book of the Year Award. Presented at the event, it went to the writer/artist's Archaia Studios Press title, **Artesia**.

TRADITIONALLY and since **Spider-Man: Mayhem in Manhattan** by Marv Wolfman and Len Wein [Pocket Books, 1978], Marvel has licensed out the rights to publish prose novels based on its characters.

That is about to change. Following its publication last year of **Mary Jane**, Marvel is inaugurating Marvel Press. This imprint is responsible for all the company's future prose titles, which are being targeted at three separate and distinct audiences: grade school readers, young adults and adults.

Three novels are planned for this year – the first being July's **Mary Jane II** – with a minimum of 12 books for 2005. Also scheduled for 2004 is a fantasy Wolverine novel for adults, lined up for October. That will be followed in November by a young adults' Spider-Man title.

2000 AD creator Pat Mills is the special guest at Caption 2004, which is being held over the weekend of August 14-15 at Wolfson College, Oxford.

Tickets to this year's edition of the long-running small press event are £10 waged/£5 unwaged. For further details write to: Caption 2004, 18 Hawkins Street, Oxford OX4 1YD, telephone Alex on 0777 5850207 or email caption2004@caption.org.

FALLEN Angels writer Peter David is spotlighting one of the team members from his 1991-93 run on **X-Factor** in a new Marvel Knights title.

According to David, the five-issue **Madrox** will feature not only the Multiple Man – introduced in 1975's **Giant-Size Fantastic Four** #4 – but also Strong Guy, another in the writer's X-Factor line-up, and New Mutants/X-Force's Rahne Sinclair aka Wolfsbane.

The unscheduled mini is being drawn by Pablo Raimondi, who pencilled 2001's **Excalibur** four-parter.

PREVIEW: Brodie's Law #1

STUDIO G is a new London-based publisher spinning out of Pulp Theatre, an animation/new media studio founded in 2000 by *Slaine's* David Bircham and graphic artist Daley Osiyemi.

With Alan Grant scripting and Bircham producing stunning two colour art, Studio G is launching the 24-page **Brodie's Law** as an August-shipping $2.95 title through Diamond Distributors.

The story tells of expert thief and professional killer Jack Brodie falling victim to a stolen compound that stimulates a morphing ability.

But it is an inherently unstable prototype, and takes a terrible toll on Brodie each time he metamorphosises into somebody else.

IT WAS A SET-UP. I SHOULD'VE SEEN IT COMIN'.
BASTARDS.
PARASITES.
THEY CAN'T KILL ME.
I WON'T LET 'EM.
I WON'T...
FUCKIN'...
DIE.
Message sent
OK

New Location, Bigger Shop, More Comics...

Ultimate OK Comics

OK Comics

has moved to a bigger and better shop right in the heart of Leeds

...with more Comic Books, Graphic Novels and Magazines than ever.

We have Super Hero, Action/Adventure, Manga, Horror and Crime Comics, plus a strong range of Independent Comics, Graphic Novels and comics-related magazines and books for casual readers and dedicated fans alike.

We also have a constantly updated range of back issues dating from 1950s and 1960s through to the present day, with prices starting at 10p per comic.

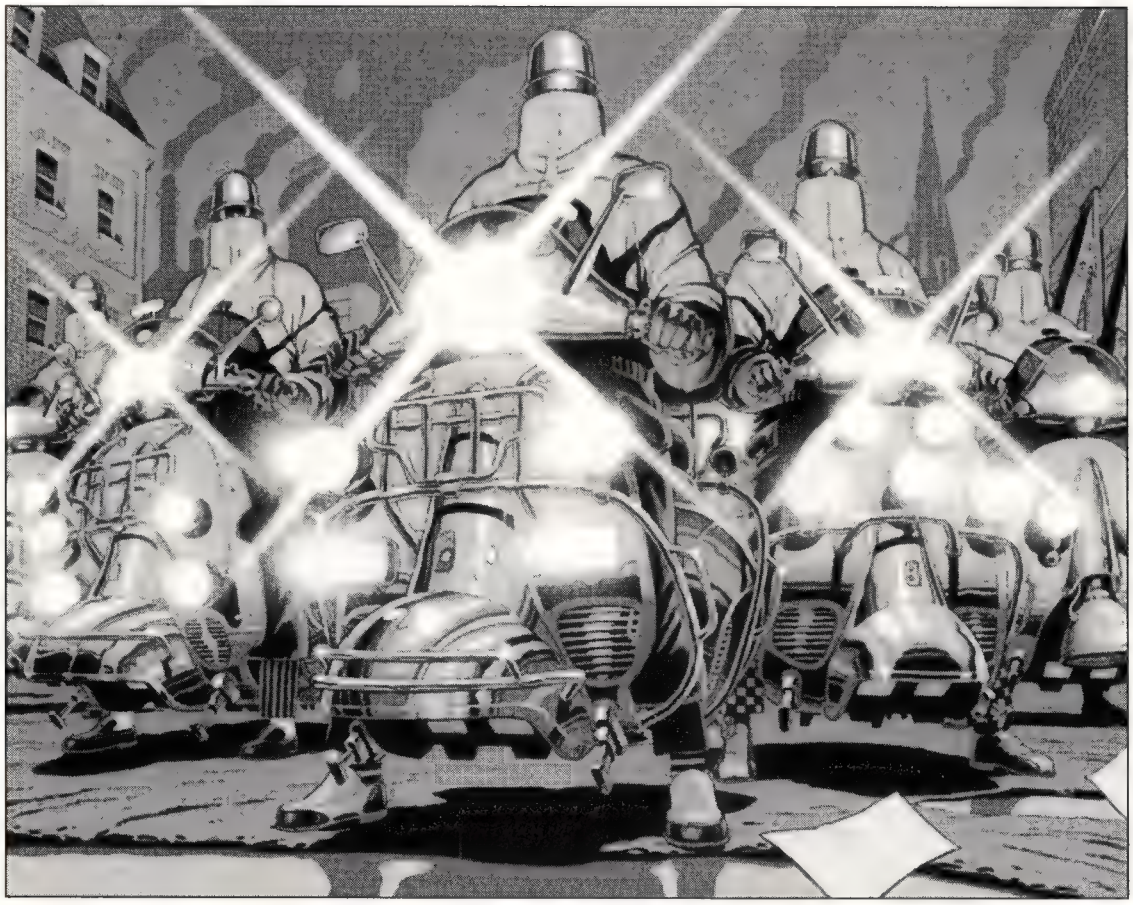
19 Thorntons Arcade, Briggate, Leeds, LS1 6LQ.

(It's the arcade featuring Starbucks, opposite Borders and McDonalds)

OK Comics Hotline: 08452 COMICS (08452 266 427)

www.okcomics.co.uk

OK



*SHOWN above is art from **The Originals**, Dave Gibbons' forthcoming semi-autobiographical graphic novel. Referring to the Vertigo 160-pager, the **Watchmen** co-creator/artist who has just signed exclusively to DC for two years said, "It's a story about the kind of things that concern you as you're growing up – belonging and the way you look, and the things you do; your gang versus their gang, and dare we say drugs and girls, getting around and having adventures. That kind of story. It's not an introspective story, it's a straight-ahead, things happen story. But, as I said, it's based very much on the experiences I had, and a lot of the characters are based on people I actually knew." Vertigo has **The Originals** tentatively scheduled for October.*

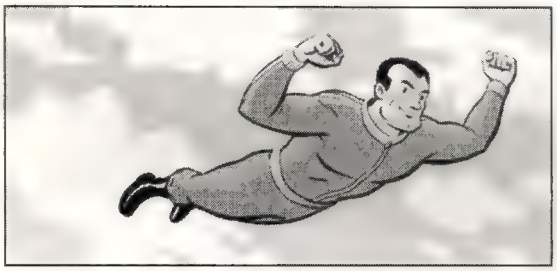


Image takes Flight

A SQUADRON of animators and cartoonists are contributing to an Image anthology that looks at flying from a variety of angles.

Spearheading the aptly-titled **Flight** is Kazu Kibuishi, who said the 208-pager features stories inspired by such creators as Moebius and Hayao Miyazaki.

Discussing the project, he said, "Some of the contributors decided to use the idea of flight as a theme, but it was entirely optional. I figured it would be best to let them see the work already going into the book and let them find their own niche in there somewhere.

"This is where the *Flight Forums* played a huge part in the creation of **Flight**," he explained. "I basically set up a private [online] forum where we showed each other the work and we all received critiques and comments.

"The forum made it really easy for me to art direct – if you can even call it that – and really gave us a sense that we were working together in a single studio to build one big project.

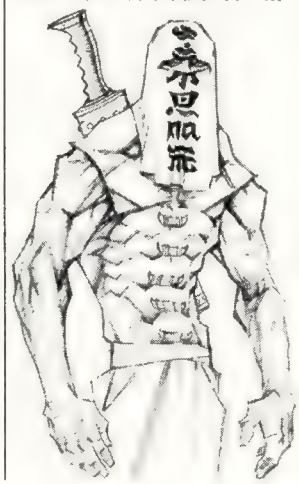
"In the end, I think people will be surprised at how cohesive the book will feel despite such wide-ranging styles and subject matter," added Kibuishi, who said the contributors are located all over the world.

***Flight**, priced $19.95, ships on July 28.*

Korean allies for G.I. Joe publisher

DEVIL'S Due has entered an alliance with Sigongsa to release the Korean multi-media publishing group's comics in the US.

Unlike similar American-Korean deals, which involve English-language versions of existing manwha titles, in this case Sigongsa – which is also known as Studio Ice – is commissioning specifically for the US market.



"The material is being created as original colour comics for an American/English audience," explained Devil's Due president Josh Blaylock said. "These are not books that have already seen print in Asia – they may end up there, but not at first. And they're being drawn by some of the biggest names on that side of the globe."

The first title from the **G.I. Joe** publisher under the agreement is **Megacity 909**. Premiering in September, it is the story of Earth's battle against the Pulses, sentient psychic parasites, set in the aftermath of a bloody, planet-wide war.

Megacity 909 is written by Jacob Lee and Andrew Dabb and drawn by Kano Kang and Zack Suh.

● Lined up to follow is the unscheduled title based on **justice N mercy**, by Mim-Woo *[see art, left]*.

In Brief

LONDON-based Titan Books is to publish a follow up to its 1999 softcover, Mark Salisbury's **Writers on Comics Script Writing**.

For the 256-page volume 2 Tom Root and Andrew Kardon have interviewed such luminaries as Brian Azzarello, Brian Michael Bendis, Andy Diggle, Geoff Johns, Greg Rucka, Dave Sim, Jill Thompson, Brian K Vaughan and Bill Willingham among others.

Illustrated with extracts from the authors' original manuscripts, the 6x9" book ships in August, priced £14.99.

NEWCOMER Nick Stakal has replaced Aadi Salman on IDW's 48-page **Hyde**.

The $6.99 one-shot is writer Steve Niles' 21st century reinterpretation of Robert Louis Stevenson's **Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde**. The change of artist has caused the title – originally scheduled for June – to be pushed back to October.

STICKING with Steve Niles, the acclaimed horror writer is also responsible for all the stories in a 48-page IDW anthology.

The $6.99 **Horrorcide (Halloween)** features three strips, one each drawn by Josh Medors, Ben Templesmith and Chee. It ships in September.

WARREN Ellis and John Cassaday's **Planetary** is now officially a quarterly.

The new schedule is, apparently, to accomodate Cassaday, who is also drawing a monthly series – Marvel's recently-launched **Astonishing X-Men**.

Issue #20 of the creative pair's $2.95 WildStorm title is scheduled for July 28.

DEVIL'S Due has extended its **G.I. Joe: Master and Apprentice** three-parter to four issues.

Written by Brandon Jerwar and drawn by Stefano Caselli and Sunder Raj, the $2.95 miniseies – which reveals the origin of Snake Eyes' apprentice, Kakamura – began in May.

ALAN Moore and Kevin O'Neill are currently working on a third unscheduled **League of Extraordinary Gentlemen** miniseries for America's Best Comics.

MARVEL has revealed that Chris Claremont has signed an exclusive two-year contract with the company as has Mark Millar, who says it won't affect Phase II of his impressive *Millarworld* publishing program.

"The second wave of *Millarworld* stuff starts in January '06 as planned," he said. "As I said previously, my Marvel contract will be up by then so it shouldn't affect the five titles I'm launching at that time – two four-issue series and three three-issue series."

AFTER THAT MY FAMILY TRUSTED THAT I WAS IN GOOD HANDS. THEY FELT EVEN MORE SECURE ONCE THEY MET MRS. BOHR.
THEY MAY NOT HAVE APPROVED OF HOW WE SPENT ALL OF OUR TIME. THOUGH.
"YOU SEE, OUR EVENING WORK IN THE INSTITUTE LIBRARY WAS OFTEN INTERRUPTED BY BOHR WHO WOULD SAY HE WAS VERY TIRED AND WANTED TO GO TO THE MOVIES."

More G.T. science

JIM Ottaviani is continuing to combine his knowledge of science with his love of comics via a 6x9" 320-page graphic novel that looks at the life and achievements of Niels Bohr, the father of quantum mechanics.

Published by his own G.T. Labs, the black and white **Suspended in Language** is the latest in a series of Ottaviani titles that includes **Dignifying Science** and **Two-Fisted Science**.

Drawn by Leland Purvis *[see art, above]*, the new softcover also features footnotes illustrated by Roger Langridge, Steve Leialoha, Linda Medley and Jeff Parker, among others.

Discussing his somewhat unique output, the writer said, "Science touches every aspect of life and is common to all cultures, under all circumstances and is done by all sorts of people. So there's always something new to learn, always a variety of stories you can tell, periods you can work in and fascinating characters to explore."

As for Bohr, Ottaviani commented, "This is a guy [Albert] Einstein looked up to, the Nazis wanted to kidnap, whose institute in Copenhagen hosted practically every Nobel prize winner in physics you can name – and then some – and who Winston Churchill considered by far the most dangerous man working on the Manhattan Project.

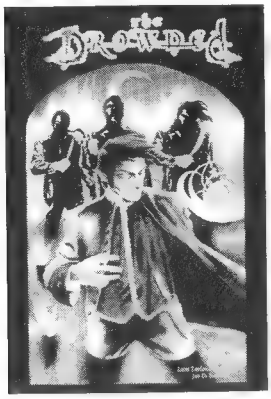
"His friends and enemies agreed: Niels Bohr was much more than the father of quantum mechanics – he was one of the most important figures of the 20th century," he concluded.

***Suspended in Language: Niels Bohr's Life, Discoveries and the Century He Shaped**, priced $24.95, ships in July.*

Drowned at Image

A HUSBAND and wife team are breaking into comics with an 80-page Image graphic novel they describe as a tale of supernatural revenge.

The Drowned is written by Laini Taylor-Di Bartolo and illustrated by Jim Di Bartolo, who spoke to **CI** about the black and white project. "If we seem to be a little mysterious about the story, it's because to tell precisely what it's about would spoil the carefully crafted unfolding of layers of mystery. So I will describe it as a tale of mystery and horror set in France at the dawn of the 19th century.



"The protagonist, Theophile Finistere, is grappling with his sanity and trying desperately to unravel the events that have destroyed his family. As he does, he realises he's inescapably enmeshed in something much bigger and more terrifying than he ever dreamed," the writer added.

***The Drowned**, price $9.95, ships on July 7.*

Invaders in comeback

King of the Hill *director resuscitates Marvel's heroic Second World War troop as contemporary team of idealists willing to do what needs doing*

ALTHOUGH Chuck Austen has reintroduced Marvel's Invaders in the pages of the **Avengers** #82-85, it is a newcomer who is continuing the revival of the World War II superhero squad into its own forthcoming title.

Explaining his take on the team, writer Allen Jacobsen said, "It exists to battle threats that are virtually impossible for other superhumans to battle. Not to suggest that our team is 'better' than any other, but the Invaders are privy to some information that most of the world's superhuman population is unaware of."

Bunch of idealists

"Basically," continued the writer, who is a director of the *King of the Hill* animated TV series, "this is a story about a group of idealists who are willing to go beyond borders to do what they believe is right. That being said, I want to be clear that this isn't a book about hate, and it isn't about disrespecting any real-world culture. It's about breaking down barriers – the barriers that we have built between ourselves – and inspiring disparate cultures to unite against a common threat.

"The premise is that the Invaders have been reformed to combat a specific threat – although that might not be clear to the reader at first glance. It will all be revealed within the first arc, issues #1-3," added Jacobsen, who is producing the series with former **StormWatch: Team Achilles** artist C P Smith.

***Invaders** #1, priced $2.99, ships on August 18.*

Above: Members of Marvel's new Invaders team as rendered by C P Smith, who is drawing the team's August-launching series.

Two artists die on same day

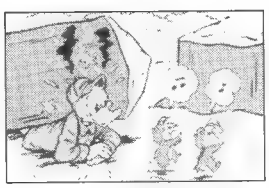
GILL Fox and Jack Bradbury both passed away on May 15.

Fox, who was born on November 29, 1918, began his artistic career as an animation opaquer and sports cartoonist before moving to Quality Comics in 1938.

There he drew, wrote and edited for a variety of titles, among them **Plastic Man** and **Police Comics**. Fox also drew backgrounds and wrote episodes of the daily newspaper version of *The Spirit* by Will Eisner and helped create Dik Browne's *Hi and Lois*.

During World War II he drew features for **Stars & Strips** and subsequently worked on a variety of newspaper strips. He also wrote and drew the single-frame cartoon, *Side Glances*, from 1962-1982.

*Above: Gill Fox's cover art for **Plastic Man** #11 [Quality, 1948].*



Above: Donald Duck and Chip 'n' Dale by Jack Bradbury.

Fox is survived by two daughters, two grandchildren and a great grandson.

Jack Bradbury

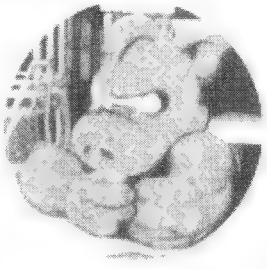
Born December 27, 1914, Bradbury died following a tragically protracted episode of renal failure.

Initially an in-betweener for Disney, he became an animator, working on such sequences as *Bambi*'s stag fight and the Pegasus family in *Fantasia*.

Regarded as a major influence on many funny-animal artists, Bradbury's comics work includes various of Dell's Disney titles as well as **Ha-Ha** and **Giggle** for ACG and Animated's **Barnyard Comics**.

He is survived by his wife, three sons, two stepsons and nine grandchildren and step-grandchildren.

PUSH ALL THE RIGHT BUTTONS



MEGA-CITY COMICS

ONLINE

WWW.MEGACITYCOMICS.CO.UK

All illustrations copyright their respective publishers.

MEGA-CITY COMICS

18 INVERNESS STREET, CAMDEN TOWN, LONDON NW1 7HJ. TEL: 020 7485 9320 e-mail: shop@megacitycomics.co.uk
Open 7 days a week 10am-6pm (10am-7pm Thu & Fri)

PAGE 45

join our mailing list and get our e-shots each month
reviewing forthcoming and new releases
opinionated, irreverent yet fun

www.page45.com

to sign up, send an
e-mail titled 'add-me'
to page45@page45.com

Spawn gets second bite of TV cherry despite comics' haphazard scheduling

Mike Conroy's Frame to Frame

"I'm gonna leave ol' Tinsel Town"

IT'S ALMOST impossible to guess what attracts a movie or TV exec to a particular property but, while it helps if it's a winner in its original medium, there's always a chance the concept might sell even if the signs are not particularly auspicious. Heck, sometimes something will get picked up even when it's on a downward spiral.

Spawn is a prime example...

When Todd McFarlane launched the title way back in 1992, the first issue sold getting on for two million copies. It became the basis of an empire that brought the former **Amazing Spider-Man** artist the ability to afford to pay ludicrous sums for baseballs, indulge his love of ice hockey and start manufacturing his own, highly successful and expanding line of action figures.

In 1997 the comic spawned a movie spin-off, which, while it didn't set the world afire, did well enough for a sequel to be put into development... where it still languishes. The same year also saw the premiere of an animated TV series, which ran a total of 18 episodes across three seasons, ending in 1999.

But the lustre has worn off **Spawn**, which now sells just over 35,000 copies per issue. Once a permanent fixture at #1 in Diamond's Top 300, it was #14 only two years ago and currently sits at #54.

Whether the drop in sales is due to a lack of interested on the part of fans or whether they have been driven away, disgusted at a shipping schedule that has just put issue #135 into the shops – almost a full year after its solicited June 25, 2003 on sale date is all-but immaterial. What is interesting is that, despite the major fall in sales and the publishing problems, a producer of computer-generated animation has seen fit to pick up the licence to put an animated version of Spawn back in your living room.

The rights have been picked up by IDT Entertainment, which is being acquisitively active. In the past few weeks it has acquired Manga Entertainment as well as a 5% stake in Archie Comics and reached an agreement for Stan Lee's POW! Entertainment to produce a bunch of animated properties for broadcast and direct to DVD distribution.

Obviously looking to make an impact on the burgeoning anime/cartoon scene in the wake of the DVD revolution, IDT must think **Spawn** a good bet to raise its profile.

One can only wonder if they've made the right choice. Time will tell.

And the obscure

As if to prove that you don't need to have a hit or a high profile to sell to Hollywood, Daniel Alter has optioned the rights to **Small Gods** even though the first issue of Jason Rand and Juan E Ferreyra's Image title doesn't ship until June 30.

The series is set in a world where approximately 1% of the population possess psychic powers. But they are not superheroes, just ordinary people living ordinary lives.

The project is being developed as a TV series by Alter. The former head of Energy Entertainment's comic-book properties department, he has also optioned another recent Image title – **Sword of Dracula** – and Devil's Due Publishing's **Hack/Slash** since he went solo.

All three titles have one thing in common: they put a different slant on existing concepts with Henderson's series in particular being singled out as "the most unique take on Dracula in over a century."

From Alter's point of view same but different makes selling to the money men that much easier but it will be interesting to see what changes are demanded before – or should that be if? – any of them reach the screen.

Mouth meet foot

Just when you thought you could rely on him, Kevin Smith is backing away from directing the in-development *Green Hornet* movie.

Having previously expressed doubts about his ability to direct an action movie, the former **Daredevil** and **Green Arrow** writer recently remarked "I think the way around it is just not to direct it because other-

wise I'm going to have to recant, and fuck that! Honestly, I signed on to *Green Hornet* to write and direct it at a time where I don't know what I was thinking. I was just like, 'Someone wants to give me a comic book movie? Wow.'

El Mariachi

"But now I would like to write it but I don't know about directing, because a) I'm too lazy to direct an action movie but b) I never got into this business to make a movie like that. I got into this business to make movies like *Clerks* and that was the first movie I made. You look at *El Mariachi*, you can see what Robert wanted to do from the get-go. I had no interest in shit like that," he added.

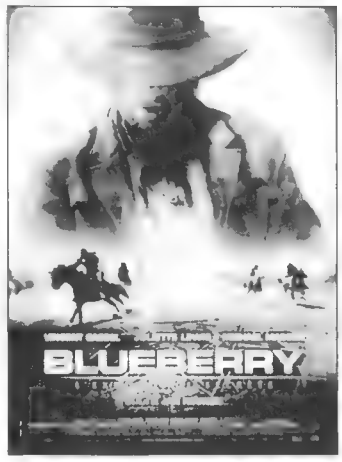
"I like movies where people sit around and talk," Smith explained. "I never got into this business to blow shit up or make people run. I sent Harvey [Weinstein] an email saying that I think I jumped into this too soon and I will happily write it but I can't guarantee that I will end up directing this movie. He was like, 'I totally get it. Just write it and see how you feel when you write it'. So that's where I'm at right now. I don't know if I have an action movie in me."

So now you know but does Smith?

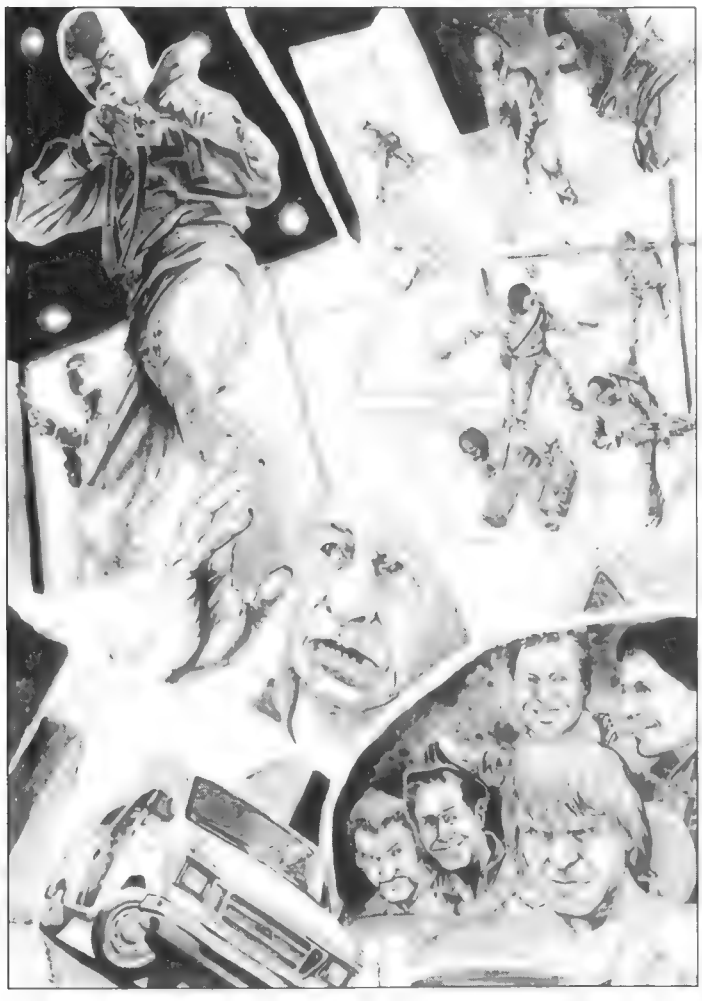
And finally...

Writer/executive producer John Rogers was speaking recently about the Warren Ellis series Warner Bros is developing as a mid-season replacement: "When push comes to shove, *Global Frequency* is about ordinary people in extraordinary situations. It's about sacrifice. Until you boil a book down to its message and its heart, you can't do a good job. You wind up with something which has all the visual trappings but entirely misses the point of what made the book interesting."

Sounds like a man capable of translating the comicbook to TV without raising the ire of its fans.



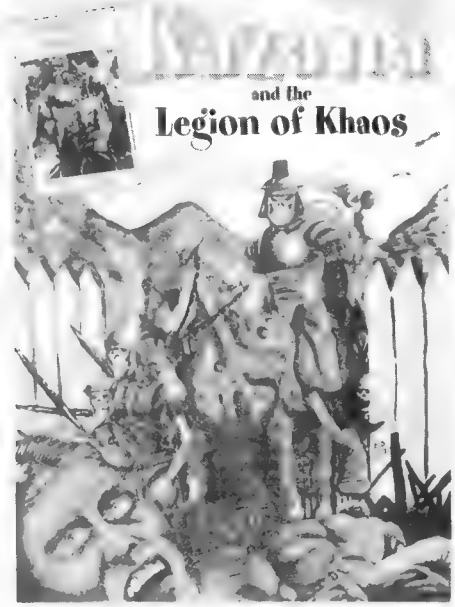
Above: The poster for the Jan Kounen-directed movie based on Jean Giraud aka Moebius's Western series. Blueberry *stars Vincent Casell, Juliette Lewis and Michael Madsen.*



Above: Juan E Ferreyra art from the first issue of Image's ***Small Gods****. Left: Spawn as the Todd McFarlane creation was seen in his 1997 animated TV series.*

NEW FROM

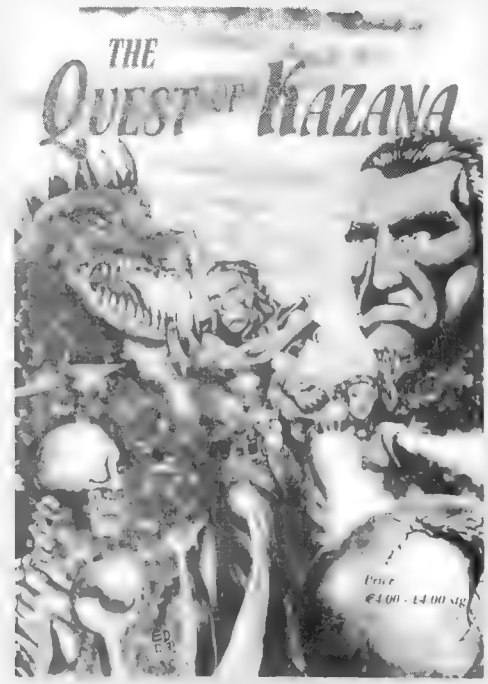
ECLECTIC COMICS



KAZANA AND THE LEGION OF KHAOS

24 GLOSSY PAGES OF FULLY PAINTED FULL COLOUR COMIC STRIP ACTION. £3/4.50EURO

ALSO AVAILABLE...



THE QUEST OF KAZANA

44 GLOSSY PAGES OF BLACK AND WHITE SWORD AND SORCERY ADVENTURE – NOW FOR THE MERE PRICE OF £2/3Euro

Cheques/postal orders made payable to Ed Doyle, at:

ECLECTIC COMIX, 14 ARD ALAINN, ROSS ROAD, ENNISCORTHY, CO. WEXFORD, IRELAND

All prices include postage.

Hot Comix - Cool Prices
Address: http://www.comix-shop.co.uk > go
COMIX
Nice!

Pond scum of the world, ignite

Talking Shop with Stephen Holland

Reminding people there's a real mainstream out there

OUR SHOP is in the **Gay-Z** directory, you know. Yeah, I thought that'd stop you in your tracks. I have no idea how we got there. Possibly they saw me dancing to Duran Duran down at our local discotheque, Rock City.

Or perhaps it was our early invitation to the seductively mischievous Donna Barr (*Lying In The Gutters,* **CI** #172) to do a double-act signing with Roberta Gregory, both of whom have created notable gay and lesbian characters in **Desert Peach** and **Bitchy Bitch**. I think some local activist conducted an interview with them and the rest, as they say, is a mystery. Sorry – history.

You don't have to be gay to be listed. Every other year some lovely lady rings the shop to check on our credentials, and all she asks is, "Are you gay-friendly?" To which I reply: "Of course we are. We're friendly to everyone... until we find out they're fox hunters."

In spite of this disgusting piece of prejudice which I pass off as a conscience, this seems to satisfy her. That's all it takes. And as a company which wants everyone to feel welcome to give us their money, we're delighted to be included.

But it does beg the observation that it's appalling that there's any need for a **Gay-Z** – that gay men and women obviously feel that they are less welcome in the service or retail sector, because, presumably, it's the last "acceptable" form of prejudice.

Well, it isn't acceptable. Is there a similar publication for racial or religious groups? I don't know the answer, but I sincerely hope it's a "no", otherwise it says so much I do not want to hear about bigotry in retail.

Fortunately, we in comics have one massive advantage over the mass market chains – that of setting our own standards of conduct both for staff and customers, then enforcing them. Mark and I used to work for the less-than-Fantastic Store, down in the basement of the local Virgin Megastore, and we saw Virgin's staff having to put up with a lot of mardy customers hurling unwarranted abuse without having any defence from management. In corporations there is this ethos that the customer is always right and I think that's a worthily humble starting point because the customer is the person paying your wages. But they are *not* right if they're racist pond scum.

So it was with harrowing dismay that I read a series of correspondence in **Comics Retailer**, a US monthly magazine generously distributed free of charge to retailers throughout the US and UK, and I think my reply pretty much fills you in:

"I've just read Heather Barnhorst's letter in your March Publication [2003] in which she responds to 'The Case of a Racist Customer', a customer who 'starts to denigrate several ethnic groups to the owner of the store. The customer becomes increasingly loud and abusive.' To this she asserts, 'We must try to deal with him in a way that does not alienate him from our establishment.'

"I'm sorry? You don't want racists alienated from your establishment? Well I sure as hell do. There shouldn't even be a second sentence after 'starts to denigrate several ethnic groups.' It's at that point – doing your best to stifle a fury that should rightly crack the San Andreas Fault – that you tell the man or woman in no uncertain terms that bigots are not welcome in your establishment, to get out of your shop and never, ever come back.

"It's not a 'complex scenario' – as she asserted – it's the simplest scenario in the book. Page 45 tolerates zero levels of prejudice be it against race, religion, sex, sexuality, or people who happen to be disabled. And, just for the record, I'm as Caucasian as they come."

I quote the whole of the above because the feckless editor – having assigned several pages previously to racist appeasers – refused to publish that single, brief rebuttal, and that last Caucausian comment because there's this tendency for some to imagine no one will stand up for others, only for themselves.

I am not politically correct. I don't even acknowledge the term, since it's been co-opted by the far right specifically to ridicule those who actually give a toss about other people. I believe in being lovely because it's the Right Thing To Do… even though I'm patently rubbish at it.

We've never encountered this scenario and I cannot believe that any other UK comic shop has. In my substantial experience comics readers, long lambasted as unsociable nerds, are actually more enlightened than the broader population, a lot more polite and a damned sight kinder. We're just cooler full stop. Evidently some parts of America still have some way to go.

> In my experience comics readers... are actually more enlightened than the broader population, a lot more polite and a damned sight kinder. We're just cooler full stop.

And now I have just few words left in which to congratulate Marvel and DC on letting works through the system which finally don't patronise ethnic minorities (largely through individual creators like Brian Azzarello) or deny the existence of young gay men and women who may be their readers. Well done on catching up on everyone else in the comicbook industry!

There's still a level of timidity though, as I discovered when replying to DC's retailer e-mail list with what I thought was a cracking idea for its merchandising department.

I don't know if you used to read Warren Ellis' or Mark Millar's run on **The Authority**, but it occurred to me that given how "in" symbols were on clubbers' t-shirts (we sold loads of Batman and Superman icons) they should print an Apollo & Midnighter double-pack of tank tops – a his and sirs, if you will.

DC immediately removed us from their mailing list.

Stephen Holland and Mark Simpson, co-own Nottingham's *Page 45.*

GUESS WHAT?

It's time for the one and only original and BEST...

KRYPTON KOMICS

HALF PRICE SALE

Every day From

Saturday 26th June 2004 Until

Saturday 3rd July 2004

ALL back issue comics will be Half Price!

ALL trade paperbacks will be 25% off!

www.kryptonkomics.co.uk

Krypton Komics. 252 High Road, Tottenham, London, N15 4AJ 020 8801 5378

Open Tue-Wed 11-6, Thurs-Fri 10.30-6, Sat 10-6 (and Sun & Mon 27th & 28th only 11-6)

Rich Johnston's LYING IN THE GUTTER

The mild-mannered creator/writer of the Internet's original comics industry rumour and news column has outraged many a publisher and survived more than one change of website. But, despite several attempts to stop it, the Squiddy Award-winning gutterpress site continues to thrive, with over 20,000 hits a week at its new home of www.comicbookresources.com

From his unique vantage point, Rich often scoops the industry newshounds with his stories. Here are the highlights from this month's Gutter...

Beyond Conventions

Back from the Bristol Convention. As usual I was taken aside into a corner many a time, not for some sordid sexual dalliance (not these days, I'm married. I'm good) but to have a quiet word about which publisher had been screwing creators, which creator had been screwing their publisher, and to find out what I knew about certain topics. I found myself having to explain a number of rumours to people who had just been affected by them and who wondered why everyone seemed to know about it but them.

There were some fine quotes from the panels... it was revealed that Bob Schreck eats his comp copies and his wonderful Dalek-style utterance, "Yes. I. Am. Looking. Forward. To. The. New. Movie. With. Catwomaaan." cracked up the hall.

Scott Dunbier mentioned that he's asked Dan Didio if Jim Lee could draw some WildStorm comics for a change sometime. When describing the Waid/Kitson proposal as "one of the best proposals I've ever read for a series," Bob Wayne also managed to engage the ire of **Legion** fans by saying that the series will add layers, not devaluing but adding to "what you liked about them when they were 2D superheroes." The mutters of "2D? 2D? They were never 2D!" from people who were definitely not 2D were heard in the fan-huddled corners afterwards.

David Hine explained a few teething troubles working for Marvel on **District X**, in that he asked for a guide to suitable language from Marvel and received the **Cage** MAX series. Let's say a few changes had to be made before **District X** then progressed. Mike Carey then exchanged words they could or couldn't use in Marvel books. Carey couldn't use 'Damn' or 'God', Hine could use 'God', but he couldn't use 'Jeez'. Hine explained his desire to use mutation as an allegory for disability and Carey stated that **Ultimate Elektra** wouldn't necessarily bear any relation to the movie version, as he has an allergy to Ben Affleck and hasn't seen the film in question. Bob Wayne also defended Chuck Austen's work after a crowd member asked "Chuck Austen on **JLA** - is it really a good idea?" by saying Chuck's work for DC is vastly superior to his work elsewhere and even Mike Carlin likes Chuck's ideas.

The lack of a Vertigo editor at the show for the first time in living memory was noted by a few, especially considering how many Vertigo creators use the con as a chance to pitch for new work, or get a face-to-face reading of the current state-of-play. However, that just left them more chances to corner Scott Dunbier and pitch him work at WildStorm without looking disloyal.

Wayne also talked about the future of Grant Morrison's **Doom Patrol** trade paperbacks. And the spectre of the Charles Atlas/Flex Mentallo case was summoned as usual. What differed this time was that Wayne stated that the likelihood of further trades would depend on sales and the affect Flex Mentallo may have would be that Flex won't be on the covers...

At the Vertigo Panel, when answering a question about more **Sandman Presents...** material, Wayne

continued on next page...

Networks

Comics news and gossip on the Internet

Compiled by Chris Rice and his team of Netmites

Net sightings

Big Guns

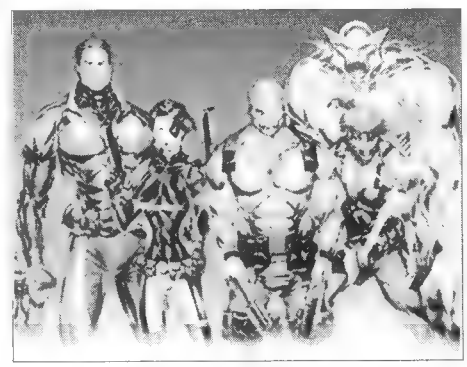
ROB Liefield is back with Marvel, as Networks *forecast a few months back, pencilling a new **X-Force** book, and our Rich interviewed him for his* Waiting For Tommy *column, on the* Silver Bullet *site. He talked about his upcoming books, but* Networks *was particularly taken with a rather neat encapsulation of the current state of the industry, in answer to a question about the retrograde nature of Liefield's return to Marvel:*

Well, obviously I think the notion that it is a step backwards is crap and not because they're working with this old dinosaur again. The fans have spoken and they've crowned some very straight forward commercial work with the top crowns in the industry. **The Amazing Spider-Man**, **Ultimate Spider-Man** and Lee/Loeb's **Batman** sat at the top of the charts for the last two years. Each book was very liberal with heavy doses of splashy images, tons of action with flying kicks and punches. Quietly I watched and wondered if the message would be received and clearly it has been. The result has been **Batman/Superman**, Silvestri's **X-Men**, **Ultimate Six**, **Teen Titans** and others including **X-Force** which contain a nice balance of exciting splashy images with exciting soap opera intrigue and drama. The fans as they always have, have the power and when they speak, the industry responds.

Better sales at the top, less tolerance at the bottom of the charts. Comic fans have so many more choices nowadays, it's the same as the broadening from network to cable. They won't just support the same old comic if the books aren't up to snuff. The middle ground is vanishing fast.

If I can get an exciting Superman/Batman story by A-listers Jeph Loeb and Mike Turner, why do I buy the others with lesser production values and B-list talent? I don't and neither do others.

The downside is that experimentation is left out in the cold, but the indie market will survive and continue to push the envelope. The big companies are getting better financial results putting big commercial packages together, they're appetites are growing as a result. The dilemma that will face them is if there is enough A-list talent to produce the big results that are driving their spreadsheets.



Above: *Rob Liefield's art for the new **X-Force** title.*

*Liefield also revealed that Diamond is to finally distribute the recent **Youngblood: Bloodsport** and **Youngblood: Genesis**, which means that anyone who lives outside of London can finally read them.*

NYX-T!

*JOSH Middleton has announced he's quitting **NYX**, posting an explanation on* com.X's *message board, some of which* Networks *excerpts here:*

First off, I thank you all for supporting my work on the book, but issue #4 is indeed my last. My decision to exit the book at this point, two issues shy of the originally planned six (I was assigned the first arc), is a combination of unforeseen conflicts, poor planning and simple lack of production...

To do good work takes time, and most importantly, careful planning. Good work is never the product of wishful thinking, nor are good working relationships. When goals are set and relationships and schedules are built around those mutually agreed upon goals, it is important for all parties involved to honour their commitments from the outset to the best of their abilities. When things go awry, honest assessment and full disclosure is imperative in keeping everyone united in finding a realistic solution to whatever has thrown the ship off course. Denial and that damnable wishful thinking cause immeasurable damage to a relationship built on trust.

When you're chasing the carrot, you inevitably get the stick.

With this in mind, I felt it was best that I end my involvement on **NYX** to hopefully facilitate the achievement of the decidedly different goals of Marvel and myself.

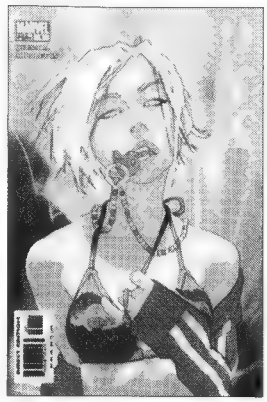
I am immensely grateful for the opportunity I was provided with and the support I received while working on the title.

In the end, I will spare the details as to how Marvel could have done better in assisting this Prima Donna in achieving artistic excellence, and will simply say that it was my own lack of enthusiasm, which ultimately led to my demise as interior artist. In my heart, I know that one must believe in what they are doing or the work will suffer immensely, if it is completed at all. I tend to think I am especially

sensitive in this area and although I try to keep things in perspective, if content or circumstance prevent me from properly engaging my heart, the work is over before it begins (though admittedly I may have manufactured a means to forgive myself too easily with this sentiment).

If indeed it does speak to my lack of professionalism or my inexperience as a comic artist, or simply my arrogance, I have still managed to somehow forgive myself for quitting a game I could never win, and in many ways, had no desire to play in the first place. I sincerely hope that fans of my work on **NYX** will forgive me, too, and that I can hopefully win their attention once more on whatever is next.

*Middleton is a mere six months into a two-year exclusive contract with Marvel, so whatever is next, it'll be for them. David Mack has said on the Image boards that Middleton would be doing some **Kabuki** stuff with him, but that seems to have fallen through. Current scuttlebutt would have it that Middleton will instead be resuming work on **Sky Between Branches**, his abandoned com.X series, to be released through the creator-owned Icon imprint.*



Above: *Josh Middleton's art for the cover to **NYX** #1*

More Wright

*FOLLOWING on from last month's story on Micah Wright, it's been confirmed that the recently released **Stormwatch** #23 will be the last thing DC publishes by the not-actually-an-ex-ranger-at-all. Despite ending midway through, DC may not be releasing #24, set to be the last issue. Allegedly, DC attempted to find a replacement, but eventually just decided to scrap it.*

*His **Vigilante** series is also dead, again after attempting to find a replacement writer for Carlos D'Anda's already pencilled book. They've scrapped it and started again. Looks like it'll be a while before we hear from the talented but misguided Mr Wright again.*

Chris Bunting's COMICS WEBWORLD

Mainstream comics are the lifeblood of the medium, but there are "alternative" publishers who have turned away from it as they attempt to prove to the world at large that sequential storytelling can be as highbrow and as sophisticated as any novel, film or play. Using everything from slice-of-life and comedy to the surreal and downright bizarre in the battle to achieve their aim, the following are the torch-bearers of the alternative scene...

ALTERNATIVE COMICS *www.indyworld.com/altcomics*
This aptly-named publisher produces such titles as **Grickle**, **Yellow Baby**, **Urban Hipster** and **The Magic Whistle** from a variety of leading alternative creators, including Graham Annable, Jed Alexander, David Lasky and Sam Henderson. Like the style of many of these creators, this site is deceptively simple, making you explore to find features of interest. The free online comic, **Lionel's Lament**, is a smart way to whet alternative appetites. 7

DRAWN & QUARTERLY *www.drawnandquarterly.com*
The chances are that even if you've never read them, you have heard of such comics as **Optic Nerve** and **Berlin**, both of which this Canadian company is responsible for. It also houses such well-known alternative names as Robert Crumb, Chris Ware, Seth and co-illustrator of this site, Jan Van Der Veken. You can buy their works, along with posters and t-shirts, in the decent online shop located here. 7

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS *www.fantagraphics.com*
A Seattle-based outfit that has held a steadfast objective for over 25 years: to produce comics that are considered a serious form of expression. Hence the fact its titles include **Love and Rockets**, **The Nimrod**, **Usagi Yojimbo** and **The Comics Journal**. This pleasant site's biggest draw is its infamous store: **Ghost World** dolls, trading cards, and my personal favourite, bargain books. Perhaps this is where huge Fantagraphics fan, *The Simpsons* creator Matt Groening, shops? 8

NBM PUBLISHING *www.nbmpublishing.com*
NBM began life in 1976 as Flying Buttress Publications and has the distinction of being the first publisher of graphic novels in America. It also boasts a colossal diversity of styles, from the exceptionally high-quality literary output of imprint ComicsLit, to worthwhile sci-fi such as **Wake**, and top humour in **Boneyard**. Preview all of NBM's products here, under the temptation of the "buy four, get four free" promotion. 7

SLG PUBLISHING *www.slavelabor.com*
Prepare to be confused. The official title for this company is now SLG Publishing, with Slave Labor / Slave Labor Graphics being an imprint that offers sophisticated comics and graphic novels. To complicate matters, Amaze Ink is another imprint, which caters to an all-ages readership. And then there's the Swing Works Gallery. Visit this respectably designed site to clear things up, or just to get the latest news and meaty previews. 7

TOP SHELF PRODUCTIONS ***www.topshelfcomix.com***
The funky, high-tech online HQ of Chris Staros and Brett Warnock's graphic novel and comicbook business. We're treated to reviews, wallpapers, interviews, news, and much more. As this company promotes work by such talents as Alan Moore, James Kochalka, Dan James, Nicolas Mahler and Craig Thompson, a visit here should be almost compulsory. 8

Honourable mentions: **GRAPHIC CLASSICS** [*www.graphicclassics.com*] and **HIGHWATER BOOKS** [*www.highwaterbooks.com*]

Rich Johnston's LYING IN THE GUTTER

continued from previous page...

asked the crowd how many people would like to see more **Sandman Presents...** A few hands were raised. Wayne asked who doesn't want to see any more **Sandman Presents...** and most hands went up, including most of the panel. Yup, that Vertigo editor absence did seem to make a difference.

But in general, the show was fairly restrained. No fights (apart from the football-related mini-riot in a Wetherspoon pub), very few explosions (apart from Craig McGill in *Hypotheticals)* and far less shagging than usual. Are we all losing our touch?

I entered the dealer and publisher rooms to be mugged by Top Shelf Comics who managed to offset their kind gesture of selling me a signed copy of **Mirror Of Love** for the unsigned price, by forcing me at the gunpoint of my hoarding nature to spend 20 quid on a small collection of form-experimenting poems called **Technical Vocabularies - Games For May** by Alan Moore and Steve Moore (still, I've got one and you haven't). Publishers APC Comics and House Of Ra put on the most impressive shows.

The Awards night was fun - I ended up accepting the award for *Best Online Strip* for **The Matrix**, on the grounds that I had read them. If anyone involved from the Matrix contacts me, I'll be happy to pass it on, otherwise I'm keeping it.

The prevalence of **2000 AD** in the winners and finalist lists may have something to do with the fact that ballot forms only appeared in print in **2000 AD** and the **Megazine**. And indeed, at one point, Dez Skinn and I were singing along to part of Slade's *Cum on Feel the Noize* accompanying one finalist rundown on the big screen, chanting "And we don't know why... and we don't know why..."

Finds of the weekend - **Commercial Suicide**, an anthology of clearly-unsuitable-for-any-publisher-but-Avatar strips from a fine collection of comics creators. **Dang!** from Top Shelf by Martin Cendreda, a kind of Chester Brown meets furry comics collection of strips that interweave with an enviable structure, **Deadman & Hyde**, a Men-In-British-Black comedy sci-fi series from Charaydis Comics by Adrian Kermode and Kieran McKeown, the **Just One Page** charity collection and another issue of **Strangehaven**, issue 16, by Gary Spencer Millidge of Abiogenesis Press.

Squeaking Down the Aisle

Despite an erroneous statement originating from a London retailer, that Grant Morrison would be present at the Bristol convention, Grant was actually flying to Mauritius to get married.

I know Bristol is meant to be the new Venice but it's hardly the most romantic honeymoon spot in the world. Congratulations, Grant and Kristan!

Seven Brides

Speaking of Morrison, **Seven Soldiers** is an upcoming Morrison project for DC, seven mini-series, each telling a story featuring one of DC's second-tier characters. The series are separate yet when read together in any order, will tell a far larger tale. I'm told Zatanna and The Atom are two of the featured characters.

Look for that starting in January.

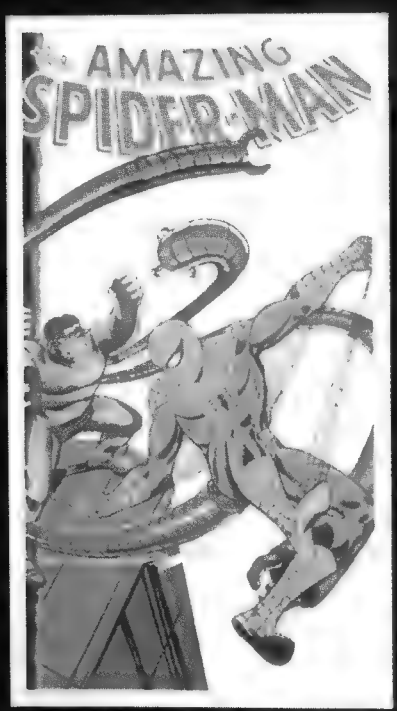
Cursed Earth 2, Maybe?

DC and Rebellion were meeting at Bristol to discuss more DC/2000 AD crossover possibilities. I do hope the *Live-Ing In The Gutters*-suggested Strontium Dog/Krypto proposal comes about, or even Dez's proposed Flash/Flesh/Wonder Woman - but I somehow don't think he was saying it with the /s.

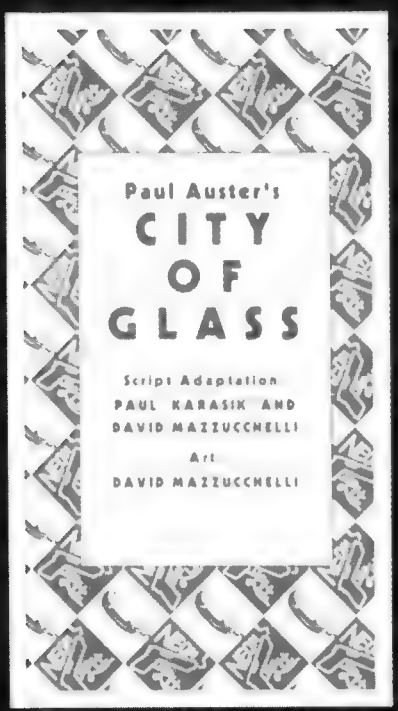
I'm told no more Dredd/Batman titles though and the future of those **Zenith** trade paperbacks embargoed in a warehouse may be grim...

DAVE'S COMICS

new for june



Essential Amazing Spider-Man
Volume 6



Paul Auster's City of Glass
Back in print at last

Lone Wolf and Cub prelude
Volume 1

the graphic novel shop

Buy three graphic novels – get 10% off

5 Sydney Street • Brighton • 01273 691012

davidscomics@yahoo.co.uk

Comment

CI, 345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ (comicsinternational@yahoo.co.uk)

Refusal of credit may offend

Comment by Antonio Albanese via e-mail: antonioalbanese@blueyonder.co.uk

I BUY the **Overstreet Price Guide** every few years. In the article in this year's guide (page 364 by R. Beerbohm and R. Olsen) there's a throwaway remark that annoyed me: "...**Amazing Fantasy** #15... introduced Spider-Man, created almost completely by Steve Ditko with some assists by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby...".

In this one sentence they manage to denigrate Lee's contribution to that of a minor assistant.

For years Stan Lee's contribution to the creation of Spider-Man and the Marvel Universe as a whole has been slighted. For decades Lee has been crediting all the work at '60s Marvel as co-creations. Even though he believes that the person who came up with the idea is the creator (and you can argue the semantics) he acknowledges that the look and feel can be majorly attributed to the various artists who also came up with the plot as many times as he did.

There's enough anecdotal evidence and column inches to back this up (in various issues of **Cartoonist Profiles** and **The Comics Journal**). If you were to go from opinion alone you would find that Joe Simon, Jack Kirby, Stan Lee and Steve Ditko all claim to have created Spider-Man. The fact is that prior to the Fantastic Four, monster comics, cowboy titles and *Twilight Zone* rip-offs ruled the Marvel offices. The then Marvel heroes were all washed up by the mid-Fifties. Even DC's new Silver Age heroes were only given their own comics years after they debuted, there was so much uncertainty about superheroes.

All the creators were there at the time who subsequently crafted the Marvel Universe. Someone comes up with an idea to run superheroes again, because DC is doing it (Martin Goodman.. who knows?). The writers and artists collaborate to produce a whole raft of superheroes once the water has been tested. **Ant-man**, plotted by Lee, script by his brother, with Kirby art, ditto for **Thor**. **Iron Man** plotted by Lee, script by his brother, with Heck art. **X-Men**, **Hulk**, **Fantastic Four** script by Lee, art by Kirby. **Daredevil** script by Lee, art by Everett, Orlando and Wood in the first few issues. And (there are more but this will do) **Spider-Man** and *Doctor Strange:* script by Lee, art by Ditko.

You can read what you like into three or four-page pieces in the '60s entitled "How Stan Lee and Steve Ditko created Spider-Man" or credits that read Stan Lee 'Godfather' and Steve Ditko 'Big Daddy', but Stan Lee is ever-present and credit is given where credit is due. What can be said is that the comics were plotted then the artist did all the hard work, making it easy for the script-writer to fill in the blanks (in early Marvels it's sometimes obvious the writer doesn't have a clue where the artist is going, but they get there in the end).

Now an important publication has given its tacit approval of the allegation by allowing it to appear in print, when the truth of the creation of Spider-Man boils down to whether you believe Stan Lee or Steve Ditko (unlike with Captain America, there is no preliminary sketch to support who did what). Should Overstreet, who has made his money through the work of these creators, allow unfounded allegations in a publication that has been a comics mainstay for years? I personally believe that a collaboration between editor/writer/artist happened but that is only an opinion from one of thousands of comic fans.

To paraphrase a recent movie, when it's in print it's libel, but what's worse is that you're doing as much a disservice to Lee as had previously been done to Ditko.

The aging fanboy blues

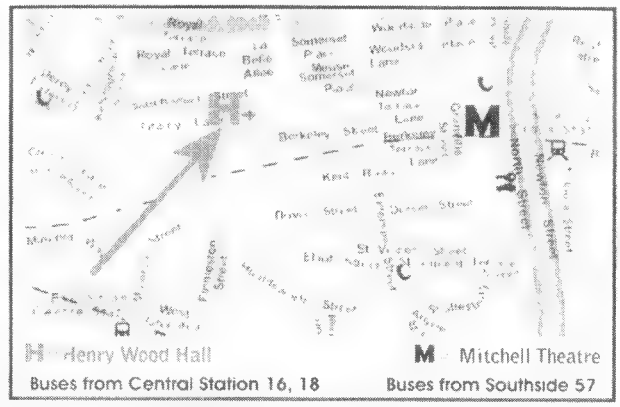
Comment by Mike Breen, Bournemouth, Dorset

THE Avengers has been my favourite title for over 30 years, since a kid at school loaned me the entire Thomas/Buscema/Adams run and I was buying Marvel UK Lee/Kirby reprints and early Steve Englehart issues all at the same time. By favourite, I don't mean consistently best or suited to my more mature tastes, just, y'know, that fanboyish childhood memory that got me started in the first place.

My favourite character was always Hawkeye. Even at a young age, some of the Marvel characters' 'human' problems seemed contrived and melodramatic. You might admire the heroics, but did you ever worry that you were a time-lost patriotic symbol, or that your life-preserving iron tank top might run out of power? Me neither. But Hawkeye? Arrogant, quick-tempered – in fact, exactly like my adolescent self – him I understood.

So with all the current Avengers-related titles, why am I mourning the passing of the good old days? Resist the temptation to suggest I'm a boring old fart who despises

THE GLASGOW
COMIC & CARD MART
NEW VENUE! NEW VENUE! NEW VENUE!
HENRY WOOD HALL
CLAREMONT STREET, GLASGOW
(JUST 400 YARDS FROM MITCHELL THEATRE)
SAT 28TH AUGUST 2004
ADMISSION £1.00
CHILDREN 12 OR UNDER FREE/ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT
TOP COMIC, CARD, TOY DEALERS
COMICS, CARDS, BOOKS, TOYS,
ACTION FIGURES, SMALL PRESS TABLES



Enquiries 0141 630 0049 or marts@redhotcomics.demon.co.uk
NEXT DATE SAT 11TH OCTOBER

www.paradoxcomics.co.uk

Advance order service
& mail order available
comic prices from
$2.25 = £1.35
$2.99 = £1.80
low postage rates
PARADOX
17 High Street, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1AB
tel: 01202 661346
email: paradox@paradoxcomics.co.uk

EUROPE'S BIGGEST COLLECTORS FAIR FOR COMICS, CARDS AND ARTWORK

MEMORABILIA

THE 2004 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THE N.E.C. BIRMINGHAM
August 14-15
Attendance last year: 17,812 & 25,714
Winter show: November 27-28

THE S.E.C.C. GLASGOW
November 13-14
Attendance last year: 7,342

Details: Made In Heaven, 1 Star Street, Moffat, Dumfriesshire DG10 9DR
Tel: 01683 220787 Fax: 01683 220798 Website: www.memorabilia.co.uk

Frazetta, Moebius, Eisner, Clement Coll, Crumb

Just a few of the names featured in our catalogue of books, many at **bargain prices**

*Since 1977, for over 25 years we have consistently supplied thousands of customers worldwide with **the largest selection** of books.*

PLUS...We offer the UK's ***largest*** selection of **ORIGINAL ART** and *more* **BRITISH COMICS** than any other source.

*Write or call now for YOUR **FREE** catalogue*

CONQUISTADOR

158 Kent House Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY
Mail order only
Tel: 020 8659 9714
Email: info@bookpalace.com
Or visit our web site
www.bookpalace.com

change or progress; **The Ultimates** is one of my top three current titles (especially #8 – Clint and Natasha invading the building and Natasha doing her Trinity impression.). So what is it? Glad you asked.

The Avengers: would it be cruel to add to the general condemnation of Chuck Austen's so-called writing? Yes? Let's do it anyway. Dull, contrived stories, personalities distorted beyond all recognition and the worst British accents in a long history of such. I don't know if the Haykeye/Wasp 'fling' is supposed to be shocking but given the characters' past history it lacks all believability.

Olivier Coipel's art is wholly inappropriate. It might work somewhere else as there is obviously talent there, but these heroes look stiff, dumpy and distinctly unheroic. The costume design sense is infested with Keith Giffen's Legionnaires' disease, especially Warbird and the late Jack of Hearts. What exactly is that wrapped around Hawkeye's arm, the brown colour coordinating so well with a blue and purple outfit? Scott Kolins' sketchiness is hardly an improvement, and his 'buccaneer' boots all look like Seventies-style flared trousers.

Captain America: apart from the questionable post-9/11 attitude, why is Chris Bachalo drawing Cap to look like the Porcupine? And I see that James Buchanan (Bucky) Barnes has retroactively changed his name to Michael; I'm glad continuity is as much of a priority here as anywhere else.

Captain America/The Falcon: I don't buy anything written by Jim Owsley, whatever he's calling himself these days. **Thor** and **Iron Man** both failed to impress and were dropped from my buy-list. **She-Hulk** is splendid fun, but I suspect the sheer *Ally McBeal*-ness of it will start to grate very, very quickly.

Ah, but what about **Hawkeye** – his own title, without the Byrne-distortions of **Avengers West** or the mind-numbing puerility of his strip in **Solo Avengers**? Uh-uh. Not impressed. Mr Nicieza, you don't know the character half as well as you think, and the chopper-riding, leather clad lone wolf (apart from being out of character) was a tiresome cliché several decades ago. I bailed after one issue.

CI reviewer Leigh Hunt was spot on describing Barry Kitson's art in **Avengers/Thunderbolts** as curiously stilted, but I can't share Leigh's enthusiasm for the story. At least it's not as bad as the much-heralded, long-awaited and utterly abominable **Avengers/JLA**. The characterisation was trite and obvious, except where (once again) personalities were distorted to fit the plot. For the first time I was unimpressed with George Perez's art – the 'everything plus the kitchen sink' mentality resulted in mostly overcrowded panels. And with all the antagonists available from the rogues' gallery of two companies, we got Krona and the Grandmaster? Puh-lease.

All in all, it looks like I might be giving up on my old favourite **The Avengers**... what's that you say? Brian Michael Bendis will soon be writing **The Avengers** and overseeing all the related titles with new creative teams? Oh. Um, look – just forget I said anything.

From the Book of AeFop

Comment by Name and Address Withheld (but supplied)

ONCE upon a time, an artist called Jee Lim knocked out comics under his CrazyTyphoon Press, most of which were entirely forgettable, including one called **TyphoonStare**. This was a generic smackdown comic with few redeeming features until a writer called Willy Earris came along and turned the whole concept on its head.

Spurred on by the success, **TyphoonStare** was cancelled to make room for **GuysInCharge**, which sold very well under the helm of Willy and did equally well when taken over by Milles Markar.

Jee Lim sold his company to CD FunnyBooks, but after a couple of issues CD became nervous about the content of **GuysInCharge** – and even demanded rewrites.

Having defanged the title, it was removed from the schedule, with a revamp planned. However, CD, not one to miss out on making a few quid, decided that while the style, characterisation and sarcasm of both Earris and Markar's work was not entirely in keeping with what it liked to publish (it's OK for people to knock seven shades out of each other as long as they aren't rude and don't have sex) it'd be perfectly fine to make plastic models of said characters.

During the revamp, CD decided to parody **GuysInCharge** in its premiere title, **Reaction Comics**. In that issue, SpecialMan lamps the GuysInCharge one, thus proving that political comment and fun have no place into today's world.

Then the GuysInCharge revamp took place. It looked like the original if you squinted. In short, it's another bland superhero comic where people hit each other with buildings, but without that pesky wit, warmth or humanity stuff.

Having totally declawed the offending book, CD had the genius idea of taking the parody version and spinning it off in the newly launched **Fairness Group Top Whack**, while happily selling the books collecting those terrible originals, of course. It wouldn't be right to say that if you were that offended in the first place you should have the courage of your convictions and withdraw the books from sale rather than keeping them in print and raking in the cash. Of course it wouldn't.

Moral: you can have your cake and eat it, as long as you're a ballless wimp completely out of touch with your readership and ready to suck the blood out of things so they won't offend any crayon wielders in the South who don't read comics in the first place.

Quality magazines & books available through Quality Communications

DRAW! Edited by MIKE MANLEY

DANNY FINGEROTH'S WRITE Now!

DRAW #2: (116 pgs.) "How-To" demos & interviews with GENNDY TARTAKOVSKY, KLAUS JANSON, JERRY ORDWAY, BRET BLEVINS, PHIL HESTER, ANDE PARKS, STEVE CONLEY, more!..**£5.50**

DRAW #3: (80 pgs.) "How-To" demos & interviews with DICK GIORDANO, BRET BLEVINS, CHRIS BAILEY, MIKE MANLEY, new column by PAUL RIVOCHE, reviews of art supplies, more! **£5.50**

DRAW #4: (92 pgs.) "How-To" demos & interviews with ERIK LARSEN, KEVIN NOWLAN, DAVE COOPER, BRET BLEVINS, new column by PAUL RIVOCHE, colour section more!.....**£5.50**

DRAW #5: (88 pgs.) "How-To" demos & interviews with BRIAN BENDIS & MIKE OEMING, MIKE WIERINGO, MARK McKENNA, BRET BLEVINS, PAUL RIVOCHE, colour section, more!...**£5.50**

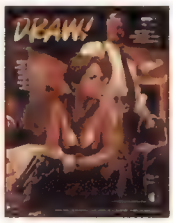
WN #1: (88 pgs.) MARK BAGLEY cover & interview, BRIAN BENDIS & STAN LEE interviews, JOE QUESADA on what editors really want, TOM DeFALCO, J.M. DeMATTEIS, more! **£5.50**

WN #2: (96 pgs.) ERIK LARSEN cover & interview, STAN BERKOWITZ on the Justice League cartoon, TODD ALCOTT on Samurai Jack, LEE NORDLING, ANNE D. BERNSTEIN & more! **£5.50**

WN #3: (80 pgs.) DEODATO JR. Hulk cover, intvs. & articles by BRUCE JONES, AXEL ALONSO, JIMMY PALMIOTTI, KURT BUSIEK, FABIAN NICIEZA, STEVEN GRANT, DENNY O'NEIL, more! ..**£5.50**

WN #4: (80 pgs.) Interviews and lessons with WARREN ELLIS, HOWARD CHAYKIN, PAUL DINI, BOB SCHRECK, DIANA SCHUTZ, JOEY CAVALIERI, STEVEN GRANT, DENNY O'NEIL, more! **£5.50**

DRAW #6: (96 pgs.) "How-To" demos & interviews with BILL WRAY, STEPHEN DeSTEFANO, CELIA CALLE, MIKE MANLEY, BRET BLEVINS, ANDE PARKS, colour section, product reviews and more! .. **£5.50**



DRAW #7: (88 pgs.) "How-To" demos and interviews with DAN BRERETON, ZACH TRENHOLM, ALBERTO RUIZ, PAUL RIVOCHE, MIKE MANLEY, BRET BLEVINS & ANDE PARKS, colour section and more! **£5.50**

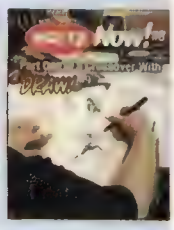
DRAW #8: (88 pgs.) "How-To" demos and interviews with TOM BANCROFT, MATT HALEY, ROB CORLEY, JOSÉ AGREDA, BRET BLEVINS & ALBERTO RUIZ, colour section and more! **£5.50**

DRAW #9: (96 pgs.) Conclusion of the two-part crossover with **Write Now! #8.** Includes 8 page four-colour "Thief of Time" comic strip KURTZ, SICKLES, WRAY, and more! (July) . . . **£5.50**

WN #5: (80 pgs.) Interviews and lessons by WILL EISNER, J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI, BOB SCHRECK, FABIAN NICIEZA, PAUL DINI, JOEY CAVALIERI, DIANA SCHUTZ, DENNY O'NEIL, more! ..**£5.50**

WN #6: (80 pgs.) Powers In-Depth with MICHAEL AVON OEMING & BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS! Interviews & lessons with MARK WAID, DON McGREGOR, DENNY O'NEIL and more! **£5.50**

WN #7: (80 pgs.) Interviews and lessons with JEFF LOEB & TIM SALE, JIM LEE, DENNY O'NEIL, CHUCK DIXON, YVETTE KAPLAN, MARK WHEATLEY, CARY NORDLING and more! **£5.50**



WN #8: (80 pgs.) Part One of crossover with **Draw! #9** FINGEROTH & MANLEY create an all-new character! Interviews and lessons with DON McGREGOR, STUART MOORE & more! (Ships in July) .. **£5.50**

THE ULTIMATE COMICS EXPERIENCE!

BACK ISSUE!

Edited by MICHAEL EURY

BACK ISSUE celebrates comic books of the 1970s, 1980s and today through a variety of recurring (and rotating) departments. The Ultimate Comics Experience, its editor is a former DC and Dark Horse writer/editor and author of books on **CAPTAIN ACTION** and **DICK GIORDANO**.

Published bimonthly, each fact-packed issue features 100 pages of interviews and essays by the best in the business, complemented by a bounty of often previously-unseen pencil art and original sketches.

#1: 100 pgs. FIRST ISSUE! Pro2Pro interview GEORGE PEREZ & MARV WOLFMAN. Original JLA/Avengers project with unseen Perez art. Rough Stuff KIRBY! JOE KUBERT and JOHN BUSCEMA'S Tarzan. INFANTINO editorial **£5.50**

#2: 100 pgs. Totally 80s issue. Pro2Pro with ADAM HUGHES & MIKE BARR plus MATT WAGNER & DIANA SCHUTZ. Rare STEVE RUDE Space Ghost artwork. BRUCE JONES' Twisted Tales & Alien Worlds comics. More! ..**£5.50**

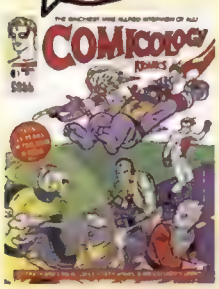
#3: (100 pgs.) Laughing Matters issue. Joker with DENNY O'NEIL, NEAL ADAMS, STEVE ENGLEHART, MARSHALL ROGERS & JIM STARLIN. Pro2Pro: GIFFEN, DeMATTEIS and MAGUIRE. BOLLAND cover. More! **£5.50**

#4: 100 pgs. Marvel Milestones issue. Pro2Pro CHRIS CLAREMONT & JOHN BYRNE. LEN WEIN & WALTER SIMONSON. Punisher and Secret Wars anniversary special. BYRNE cover. More! **£5.50**

#5: (100 pgs.) Comics in Hollywood issue. Wonder Woman TV show. LOU FERRIGNO interview. DICK GIORDANO, JERRY ORDWAY and GEORGE PEREZ art. ADAM HUGHES & ALEX ROSS covers. (July) ... **£5.50**

COMICOLOGY

Edited by BRIAN SANER LAMKEN



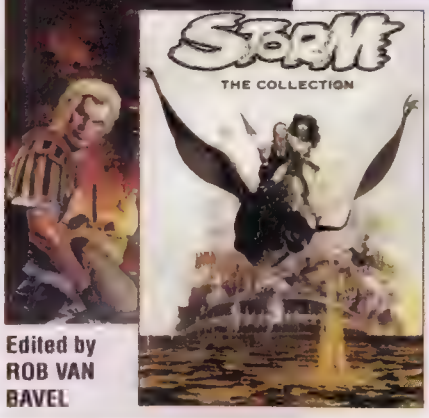
COMICOLOGY #2: (100 pgs.) MIKE ALLRED interview and portfolio, 60 years of THE SPIRIT, 25 years of the X-MEN, PAUL GRIST interview, FORTY WINKS, new colour ALLRED and GRIST covers and much more! **£5.95**

COMICOLOGY #3: (100 pgs) CARLOS PACHECO interview and portfolio, ANDI WATSON interview, a look at what comics predicted the future would be like, new color PACHECO and WATSON covers & more! ...**£5.95**

COMICOLOGY #4: (116 pages, final issue) ALL BRIAN ISSUE! Interviews with BRIAN AZZARELLO, BRIAN CLOPPER, BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS, BRIAN BOLLAND, huge BOLLAND portfolio & more! ..**£5.95**

TRIGAN EMPIRE THE COLLECTION

DON LAWRENCE THE COLLECTIONS



Edited by ROB VAN BAVEL

AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH AT LAST... the complete collected masterworks of the legendary Don Lawrence: **STORM** and **THE TRIGAN EMPIRE**.

Both classics series are finally being collected, as limited edition large format (24.5x34.5cm) dust-jacketed leatherette-bound hardcovers with an average of 100 pages per full colour volume.

Storm's 23 multi-award winning books are being re-edited and relettered for new film separations across 12 editions, published twice a year, with the first two hardcovers currently available.

Trigan Empire retells the entire 40 stories of Trigo, Jano, Perik and Bragg across 12 editions, with over 750 pages (of the 950+ total) shot straight from the original art. Again twice yearly, the first volume ships in June, fully digitized and re-edited with its own unique dossier.

STORM and **TRIGAN EMPIRE** ...**£49.95** ea

Preorders for future volumes also being taken

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

While **COMICOLOGY** is available only as back issues (with #1 completely sold out), you can save money by subscribing to **BACK ISSUE**, **DRAW** or **WRITE NOW**. You can even backdate and mix your discounted sub from any title, any issue, #1 onwards! Order six back issues of any £5.50 listed title for only £5.00 each (and save £3!) or 12 for only £4.50 each (and save £12!!) Or subscribe to future issues at the same discount rates

Quality Communications Limited

345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ Tel: 01273 566 222 Email: qualitymailsale@yahoo.co.uk

VISA MasterCard

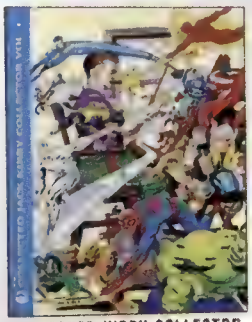
AN ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT WITH COMICS INTERNATIONAL #173 FOR YOU TO PULL OUT AND KEEP. MAKE ALL PAYMENTS TO QUALITY COMMUNICATIONS LTD

Quality magazines & books available through Quality Communications

THE JACK KIRBY COLLECTOR

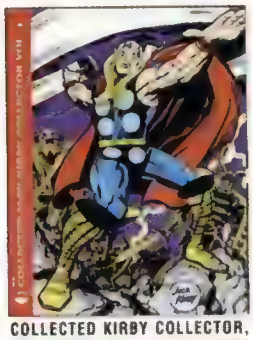
The KIRBY COLLECTOR (edited by JOHN MORROW) celebrates the life & career of the "King" of comics through interviews with Kirby & his contemporaries, feature articles & rare & unseen Kirby artwork. Now in tabloid format, the magazine showcases Kirby's art at even larger size.

Complete your JACK KIRBY COLLECTOR collection with our COLLECTED VOLUMES and BACK ISSUES!



COLLECTED KIRBY COLLECTOR, VOL. ONE: (240 pgs.) Reprints TJKC #1-9, plus over 30 pieces of never before published Kirby art! **£20.00**

COLLECTED KIRBY COLLECTOR, VOL. TWO: (160 pgs.) Reprints TJKC #10-12, plus over 30 pieces of never before published Kirby art! **£20.00**



COLLECTED KIRBY COLLECTOR, VOL. THREE: (176 pgs.) Reprints TJKC #13-15, plus over 30 pieces of never before published Kirby art! **£20.00**

COLLECTED KIRBY COLLECTOR, VOL. FOUR: (240 pgs.) Reprints TJKC #16-19, plus over 30 pieces of never before published Kirby art! **£20.00**

CAPTAIN VICTORY: GRAPHITE EDITION (52 pgs.) Kirby's 1975 Graphic Novel in original pencil form. Unseen art, screenplay, more! Proceeds go to preserving the 5000-page Kirby Archives! **£6.00**

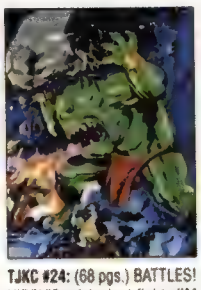
THE JACK KIRBY CHECKLIST: (100-Pages) Lists all his published comics in detail, plus portfolios, unpublished work; it even cross-references reprints! A must-have for eBay shoppers! **£4.95**

TJKC #20: (68 pgs.) KIRBY'S WOMEN! Interviews with KIRBY, DAVE STEVENS, & LISA KIRBY, unused 10-page story, romance comics, Jack's original CAPTAIN VICTORY screenplay, more! **£6.00**

TJKC #21: (68 pgs.) KIRBY, GIL KANE, & BRUCE TIMM intvs., FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE (LEE dialogue vs. KIRBY notes), SILVER STAR screenplay, TOPPS COMICS, unpublished art, more! **£6.00**

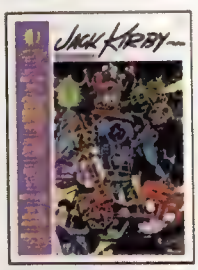
TJKC #22: (68 pgs.) VILLAINS! KIRBY, STEVE RUDE, & MIKE MIGNOLA interviews, FF #49 pencils, FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE, KOBRA, ATLAS MONSTERS! Kirby-Stevens cover. **£6.00**

TJKC #23: (68 pgs.) Interviews with KIRBY, DENNY O'NEIL & TRACY KIRBY, more FF #49 pencils, FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE, unused 10-page SOUL LOVE story, plus more! **£6.00**



TJKC #24: (68 pgs.) BATTLES! KIRBY'S original art fight, JIM SHOOTER interview, NEW GODS #6 ("Glory Boat") pencils, FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE, more! Kirby/Mignola cover. **£6.00**

TJKC #25: (100 pgs.) SIMON & KIRBY! KIRBY, SIMON, & JOHN SEVERIN interviews, CAPTAIN AMERICA pencils, unused BOY EXPLORERS story, history of MAINLINE COMICS, more! **£6.00**



TJKC #26: (72 pgs.) GODS! COLOR NEW GODS concept drawings, KIRBY & WALTER SIMONSON interviews, FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE, BIBLE INFLUENCES, THOR, MR. MIRACLE, more! **£6.00**

TJKC #27: (72 pages) KIRBY INFLUENCE Part One! KIRBY and ALEX ROSS interviews, KIRBY FAMILY Roundtable, all-star lineup of pros discuss Kirby's influence on them! Kirby/Timm cover.....**£6.00**

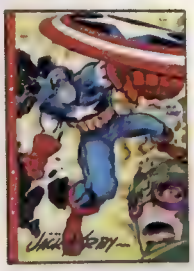
TJKC #29: (68 pgs.) '70s MARVEL! Interviews with KIRBY, KEITH GIFFEN & RICH BUCKLER, '70s COVER GALLERY in pencil, FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE, & more! Kirby/Janson cover. **£6.00**

TJKC #30: (68 pgs.) '80s WORK! Interviews with ALAN MOORE & Kirby Estate's ROBERT KATZ, HUNGER DOGS, SUPER POWERS, SILVER STAR, ANIMATION work, more! **£6.00**

TJKC #31: (84 pgs.) TABLOID FORMAT! Wraparound KIRBY/ADAMS cover, KURT BUSIEK & LADRONN interviews, new MARK EVANIER column, favorite 2-PAGE SPREADS, 2001 Treasury, more! ...**£8.50**

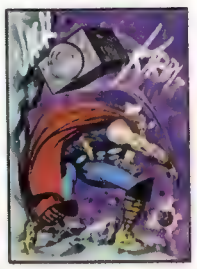
TJKC #32: (84 pgs.) TABLOID! KIRBY interview, new MARK EVANIER column, plus Kirby's Least Known Work: DAYS OF THE MOB #2, THE HORDE, BLACK HOLE, SOUL LOVE, PRISONER, more!.....**£8.50**

TJKC #33: (84 pgs.) TABLOID ALL-FANTASTIC FOUR issue! MARK EVANIER column, mini-interviews with everyone who worked on FF after Kirby, STAN LEE interview, 40 pgs. of FF PENCILS, more! **£8.50**



TJKC #34: (84 pgs.) TABLOID! JOE SIMON & CARMINE INFANTINO interviews, MARK EVANIER column, unknown 1950s concepts, CAPTAIN AMERICA pencils, KIRBY/TOTH cover, more! **£8.50**

TJKC #35: (84 pgs.) TABLOID! GREAT ESCAPES with MISTER MIRACLE, comparing KIRBY & HOUDINI, Kirby Tribute Panel with EVANIER, EISNER, BUSCEMA, ROMITA, ROYER, & JOHNNY CARSON! ...**£8.50**



TJKC #36: (84 pgs.) TABLOID ALL-THOR issue! MARK EVANIER column, SINNOTT & ROMITA JR. interviews, unseen KIRBY INTV., ART GALLERY, FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE, more! **£8.50**

TJKC #37: (84 pgs.) TABLOID HOW TO DRAW THE KIRBY WAY issue! MARK EVANIER column, MIKE ROYER on inking, KIRBY interview, ART GALLERY, analysis of Kirby's art techniques, more! **£8.50**

TJKC #38: (84 pgs.) TABLOID KIRBY: STORYTELLER! MARK EVANIER column, JOE SINNOTT on inking, SWIPES, talks with JACK DAVIS, PAUL GULACY, HERNANDEZ BROS., ART GALLERY, more! **£8.50**

TJKC #39: (84 pgs.) TABLOID FAN FAVORITES! EVANIER column, INHUMANS, HULK, SILVER SURFER, tribute panel with ROMITA, AYERS, LEVITZ, McFARLANE, TRIMPE, ART GALLERY, more! **£8.50**

TJKC #40: (84 pgs.) TABLOID "WORLD THAT'S COMING!" EVANIER column, KAMANDI, OMAC, tribute panel with CHABON, PINI, GOLDBERG BUSCEMA, LIEBER, LEE, ART GALLERY, more! **£8.50**

ORDERING INFORMATION:

BULK BUY & SAVE MONEY! Save 75p a copy by ordering six of the £8.50 issues for only £7.75 each, back issues or future ones! Order six £6 issues for £5.50 each! All prices include post & packing charges for inland orders and seamail overseas. For airmail overseas please add $1.50 per item ordered. Almost all books in stock and, short of reorders, mailed out in 7 days. All cheques/money orders should be made payable to Quality Communications Limited.

Quality Communications Limited

345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ Tel: 01273 506 222 Email: qualitymailsale@yahoo.co.uk

VISA MasterCard

Quality magazines & books available through Quality Communications

WARRIOR

Edited by
DEZ SKINN

WARRIOR, possibly the best British comics anthology of the 1980s, introduced a host of new readers to an alternative way of producing comics. The greatest showcase for creators and creations, its writers, artists and characters revolutionised both the US and the UK industry during its multi-award winning 26 issue run.

All issues offered for sale are original first editions from over 20 years ago.

Warrior 1 .. £5.00/$7.50

Cover: Steve Dillon. **Marvelman** (A Moore + Leach), **Pressbutton** (Henry + Dillon), **Spiral Path** (Parkhouse), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Shandor** (S Moore + Bolton), **Prester John** (S Moore + Bolton) + Gibbons short story

Warrior 2 .. £4.00/$6.00

Cover: Garry Leach. *Features* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Leach) **Pressbutton** (Henry + Dillon) **The Spiral Path** (Parkhouse) **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Shandor** (S Moore + Bolton), **Madman** (Neary) + Baikie pinup

Warrior 3 .. £4.00/$6.00

Cover: Paul Neary. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Leach) **Pressbutton** (Henry + Dillon) **The Spiral Path** (Parkhouse) **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd) **Shandor** (S Moore + Bolton) **Madman** (Neary) **Zirk** (Bolland)

Warrior 4 .. £5.00/$7.50

Cover: Dillon. *Features* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Neary/Davis/Dillon), **Pressbutton** (Henry + Jackson), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Spiral Path** (Parkhouse), **Shandor** (S Moore + Jackson) **Madman** (Neary), **Golden Amazon**

Warrior 5 .. £4.00/$6.00

Cover: Skinn. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Neary/Davis/Dillon), **Pressbutton** (Henry + Jackson), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Spiral Path** (Parkhouse), **Shandor** (S Moore + Jackson), **Madman** (Neary), **Golden Amazon**

Warrior 6 .. £4.00/$6.00

Cover: Steve Parkhouse. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis/Leach), **Pressbutton** (Henry + Dillon), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Spiral Path** (Parkhouse), **Shandor** (S Moore + Jackson), **Madman** (Neary + Austin)

Warrior 7 .. £5.00/$7.50

Cover: Mick Austin. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis/Leach), **Pressbutton** (Henry + Dillon), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Spiral Path** (Parkhouse), **Shandor** (S Moore + Jackson) **Madman** (Neary + Austin)

Warrior 8 .. £4.00/$6.00

Cover: David Jackson. *Features* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis) **Pressbutton** (Henry + Dillon), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Spiral Path** (Parkhouse), **Shandor** (S Moore + Jackson), **Stir Crazy** (Hunt Emerson)

Warrior 9 .. £4.00/$6.00

Cover: Mick Austin *Features* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis), **Pressbutton** (Henry + Dillon) **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd) **Spiral Path** (Parkhouse & Ridgway) **Shandor** (S Moore + Jackson) **Warpsmith** (A Moore + Leach)

Warrior 10 . £4.00/$6.00

Cover: Garry Leach. *Features* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis) **Pressbutton** (Henry + Dillon) **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd) **Spiral Path** (Parkhouse & Ridgway), **Shandor** (S Moore + Jackson) **Warpsmith** (A Moore + Leach)

Warrior 11 . £3.50/$5.00

Cover: Garry Leach. *Features* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis), **Pressbutton** (Henry + Dillon) **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **The Spiral Path** (Parkhouse & Ridgway), **Legend of Prester John** (S Moore + Stokes)

Warrior 12 . £3.50/$5.00

Cover: Parkhouse. *Features:* **Young Marvelman** (A Moore + Ridgway), **Pressbutton** (Henry + Austin), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Spiral Path** (Parkhouse & Ridgway), **Prester John** (S Moore + Stokes), **Bojeffries** (A Moore)

Warrior 13 . £3.50/$5.00

Cover: Leach. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis), **Zirk** (Henry + Leach), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Bojeffries Saga** (A Moore & Parkhouse), **The Shroud** (Parkhouse & Ridgway), **Shandor** (S Moore & Jackson)

Warrior 14 . £3.50/$5.00

Cover: Jim Baikie. *Features* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis), **Shandor** (S Moore & Jackson), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Twilight World** (S Moore & Baikie), **Ektryn** (Henry & Cam Kennedy)

Warrior 15 . £3.50/$5.00

Cover: Mick Austin. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis), **Pressbutton** (Henry + Dillon), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Twilight World** (S Moore & Baikie), **Shandor** (S Moore + Jackson), Steve Moore feature

Warrior 16 . £3.50/$5.00

Cover: Mick Austin. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis), **Pressbutton** (Henry + Curt Vile), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Shandor** (S Moore + Jackson), **Twilight World** (S Moore & Baikie), Dez Skinn feature

Warrior 17 . £3.50/$5.00

Cover David Jackson. *Features:* **Marvelman Family** (A Moore + Ridgway) **Shandor** (S Moore + Jackson), **Twilight World** (S Moore & Baikie), **Home is the Sailor** (Parkhouse & Ridgway), Alan Moore V for Vendetta feature

Warrior 18 . £3.50/$5.00

Cover: Steve Parkhouse. *Features* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Demon at the Gates** (Parkhouse) **Shandor** (S Moore & Jackson) **One Man's Meat** (Asbury), Garry Leach drawing feature

Warrior 19 £7.50/$11.50

Cover: Leach. *Features:* **Big Ben** (Skinn + William Simpson), **The Bojeffries Saga** (A Moore & Parkhouse), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Shandor** (S Moore & Jackson), **Swordspell** (A Booth & Jackson), Mick Austin feature

Warrior 22 £3.50/$5.00

Cover: Geoff Senior. *Features:* **The Liberators** (Skinn + Ridgway), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Bogey** (Segura + Sanchez), **Big Ben** (Skinn + Simpson), Frank Bellamy interview

Warrior 23 £3.50/$5.00

Cover: Geoff Senior. *Features:* **The Liberators** (Skinn + Ridgway), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Bogey** (Segura + Sanchez), **Big Ben** (Skinn + Simpson), Brian Bolland interview

Marvelman Special #1 (1984) ..... £5.00/$7.50

Cover: Mick Austin. *Features* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis), **Marvelman Family** (Anglo + Lawrence), **Marvelman** (Anglo + Parker), **Big Ben** (Henry + Gibson)

Miracleman 1 £2.50/$4.00

Cover: Garry Leach. *Features* Colour reprints of Marvelman from **Warrior** #1-3 (A Moore + Leach) and **Marvelman Special** (A Moore + A Davis: Anglo + Lawrence)

Pressbutton 1 £2.50/$4.00

Cover: Brian Bolland. *Features* Coloured reprints of Pressbutton from **Warrior** #1-3 (P Henry & Dillon) and **Zirk** from **Warrior** #3 (P Henry + Brian Bolland)

Pressbutton 3 £2.00/$3.00

Cover: Alan Davis. *Features* Coloured reprints of Pressbutton **Warrior** #7-9 (P Henry & Dillon), **Ektryn** (P Henry + Kennedy), **Shroud, Spire & Stars** (Parkhouse & Ridgway)

Pressbutton 4 £2.00/$3.00

Cover: Mick Austin. *Features:* Coloured reprints of Pressbutton **Warrior** #10-11, 20 (P Henry & Dillon/Davis), **Ektryn** (P Henry + Kennedy), **Zirk** (Henry & Leach)

ORDERING INFORMATION: All prices include post & packing charges for inland orders and seamail overseas. For airmail overseas, please add $1.50 per item ordered. All items are in stock and mailed out within seven days, if not by return post. All cheques/money orders should be made payable to Quality Communications Limited.

Quality Communications Limited
245 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ Tel: 01273 566 222 Email: qualitymailsale@yahoo.co.uk

VISA

Quality magazines & books available through Quality Communications

THE LEGION COMPANION

- A history of the Legion of Super-Heroes, with **DAVE COCKRUM, MIKE GRELL, JIM STARLIN, JAMES SHERMAN, PAUL LEVITZ, KEITH GIFFEN, STEVE LIGHTLE, MARK WAID, JIM SHOOTER, JIM MOONEY, AL PLASTINO,** and more!
- Rare and never-seen Legion art by the above, plus **GEORGE PÉREZ, NEAL ADAMS, CURT SWAN,** and others!
- Unused Cockrum character designs and pages from an **UNUSED STORY!**
- New cover by **DAVE COCKRUM** and **JOE RUBINSTEIN**, introduction by **JIM SHOOTER**, and more!

224-page trade paperback **£20.00**

HERO GETS GIRL! THE LIFE & ART OF KURT SCHAFFENBERGER

MARK VOGER's biography of the artist of **LOIS LANE** & **CAPTAIN MARVEL!**

- Covers **KURT'S LIFE AND CAREER** from the 1940s to his passing in 2002!
- Features **NEVER-SEEN PHOTOS & ILLUSTRATIONS** from his files!
- Includes recollections by **MURPHY ANDERSON, WILL EISNER, CARMINE INFANTINO, JOE KUBERT, ALEX ROSS, MORT WALKER** and others!

128-page trade paperback.....**£12.95**

EISNER AWARD WINNER!

STREETWISE TOP ARTISTS DRAWING STORIES OF THEIR LIVES

An unprecedented assembly of talent drawing **NEW** autobiographical stories:

- Barry **WINDSOR-SMITH** • C.C. **BECK**
- Sergio **ARAGONÉS** • Walter **SIMONSON**
- Brent **ANDERSON** • Nick **CARDY**
- Roy **THOMAS** & John **SEVERIN**
- Paul **CHADWICK** • Rick **VEITCH**
- Murphy **ANDERSON** • Joe **KUBERT**
- Evan **DORKIN** • Sam **GLANZMAN**
- Plus Art **SPIEGELMAN**, Jack **KIRBY**, more! Cover by **RUDE** • Foreword by **EISNER**

160-page trade paperback.....**£15.95**

THE LIFE & ART OF MURPHY ANDERSON

R.C. HARVEY's lavishly illustrated autobiographical memoir of the man whose style defined the DC look for a generation!!

- Covers his work on **SUPERMAN, HAWKMAN, ADAM STRANGE, ATOMIC KNIGHTS, BUCK ROGERS,** and more!
- Loaded with **ANDERSON ART**, plus behind-the-scenes anecdotes about **FINE, EISNER, SWAN, KANE,** and others!
- Includes a deluxe **COLOR SECTION** showcasing many of Murphy's finest cover recreations and paintings!

176-page trade paperback.....**£14.95**

"I HAVE TO LIVE WITH THIS GUY!"

Explore the lives of the partners and wives of the top names in comics, as they share memories, anecdotes, personal photos, momentos, and never-before-seen art by the top creators in comics!

- **ALAN MOORE** • **WILL EISNER**
- **STAN LEE** • **GENE COLAN**
- **JOE KUBERT** • **JOHN ROMITA**
- **HARVEY KURTZMAN** • **DAVE SIM**
- **HOWARD CRUSE** • **DAN DeCARLO**
- **DAVE COOPER and many more!**

208-page trade paperback.....**£15.95**

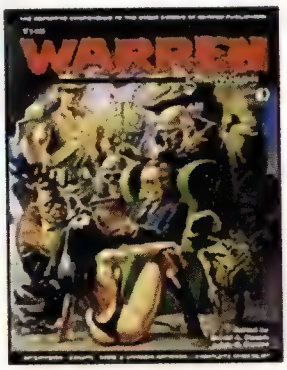
PANEL DISCUSSIONS TOP ARTISTS DISCUSS THE DESIGN OF COMICS

Top creators discuss all aspects of the **DESIGN OF COMICS** With **WILL EISNER** and **SCOTT HAMPTON** plus:

- **MIKE WIERINGO** • **WALTER SIMONSON**
- **MIKE MIGNOLA** • **MARK SCHULTZ**
- **DAVID MAZZUCCHELLI** • **MIKE CARLIN**
- **DICK GIORDANO** • **BRIAN STELFREEZE**
- **CHRIS MOELLER** • **MARK CHIARELLO**

If you're serious about creating effective, innovative comics, or just enjoying them from the creator's perspective, this guide is a must read!

208-page trade paperback.....**£17.95**



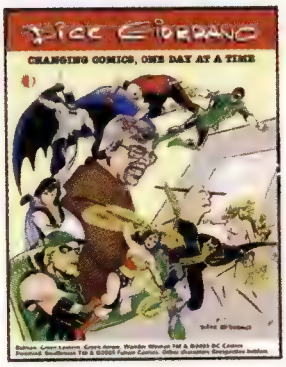
WARREN COMPANION

The ultimate guide to Warren Publishing, the publisher of such mags as **CREEPY, EERIE, VAMPIRELLA, BLAZING COMBAT,** and others. Reprints **COMIC BOOK ARTIST #4** (completely reformatted), plus nearly 200 new pages:

- New painted cover by **ALEX HORLEY!**
- A definitive **WARREN CHECKLIST!**
- Dozens of **NEW FEATURES** on **CORBEN, FRAZETTA, DITKO** and others, and interviews with **WRIGHTSON, WARREN, EISNER, ADAMS, COLAN** & many more!

272-page trade paperback.....**£24.95**

288-page limited edition hardcover, only 1000 copies produced, signed by **JIM WARREN**, with custom endleaves plus extra 16 pages and a **WRIGHTSON** plate **£39.95**



DICK GIORDANO CHANGING COMICS, ONE DAY AT A TIME

MICHAEL EURY's biography of comics' most prominent and affable personality!

- Covers his career as illustrator, inker, and editor, peppered with **DICK'S PERSONAL REFLECTIONS** on his career milestones!
- Lavishly illustrated with **RARE AND NEVER SEEN** comics, merchandising, and advertising art (includes a color section)!
- Extensive index of his published work!
- Comments & tributes by **NEAL ADAMS, DENNIS O'NEIL, TERRY AUSTIN, PAUL LEVITZ, MARV WOLFMAN, JULIUS SCHWARTZ, JIM APARO** & others!
- With a Foreword by **NEAL ADAMS** and Afterword by **PAUL LEVITZ!**

176-page trade paperback.....**£15.95**

CAPTAIN ACTION THE ORIGINAL SUPER-HERO ACTION FIGURE

CAPTAIN ACTION debuted in the wake of the '60s Batman TV show, and could become 13 different super-heroes. With over 200 toy photos, this trade paperback chronicles his history (including comics appearances) with historical anecdotes by the late **GIL KANE, JIM SHOOTER, STAN WESTON** (co-creator of GI Joe, Captain Action and Mego's World's Greatest Super-Heroes) and others, plus never-seen artwork by **GIL KANE, JOE STATON, CARMINE INFANTINO, JERRY ORDWAY,** and **MURPHY ANDERSON!**

Includes a colour section! Written by **MICHAEL EURY!**

176-page trade paperback **£13.95**

THE EXTRAORDINARY WORKS OF ALAN MOORE

The reclusive British author tells **HIS OWN STORY** in an extensive series of interviews!

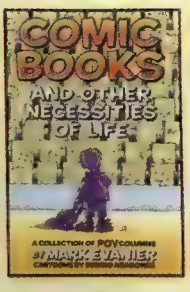
- Spotlights **RARE STRIPS, SCRIPTS, ARTWORK** and **PHOTOGRAPHS** of the author, most never published before!
- Features comic stories about Moore by: **NEIL GAIMAN, DAVE GIBBONS, SAM KIETH, KEVIN O'NEILL, BRIAN BOLLAND, RICK VEITCH** and others plus an artistic tribute by **ALEX ROSS** and a new cover by **DAVE McKEAN!**
- Includes the **RARE MOORE STORIES** "Pictopia", "Lust", his unseen work on **JUDGE DREDD** and more!

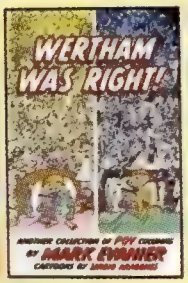
208-page trade paperback.....**£24.95**

GET ALL THREE COLLECTIONS OF MARK EVANIER'S ACCLAIMED POV COLUMNS!

Each volume includes new essays, plus new illustrations and new covers by Mark's **GROO** collaborator and **MAD** artist **SERGIO ARAGONÉS!**

200-page trade paperbacks ....**£10.95** ea.





COMIC BOOKS & OTHER NECESSITIES OF LIFE

First collection includes some of his best essays and commentaries, plus new ones on the state of the art form as only Mark conveys it, the industry's leading practitioners (including **JACK KIRBY** and **CARL BARKS**), convention-going and Mark's old comicbook club (with unforgettable anecdotes)!

WERTHAM WAS RIGHT!

Second collection features many never-before published columns on comicbook history, creation, and appreciation, including Mark's diatribe on comicbook numbering and an essay on comics greatest villain, **DR. FREDRIC WERTHAM!**

SUPERHEROES IN MY PANTS!

NEW THIRD COLLECTION about the people who create comics, the people who read them, and why they do these strange things!

ORDERING INFORMATION: All prices include post & packing charges for inland orders and seamail overseas. For airmail overseas, please add $1.50 per item ordered. Almost all books in stock and, short of reorders, mailed out in 7 days. All cheques/money orders should be made payable to Quality Communications Limited.

Quality Communications Limited

345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ Tel: 01273 566 222 Email: qualitymailsale@yahoo.co.uk

VISA MasterCard

Quality magazines & books available through Quality Communications

THE COMIC BOOK ARTIST COLLECTION VOL. ONE

Reprints the Eisner Award-winning **COMIC BOOK ARTIST #1-3**, plus over **50 NEW PAGES** of features and art:

- An unpublished story by **JACK KIRBY!**
- An interview with **NEAL ADAMS** about his **SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI** book (including unused art)!
- Unpublished **BERNIE WRIGHTSON** art!
- An unused story by **JEFFREY JONES!**
- Extensive new **ALAN WEISS** interview (including unpublished art) & more!

228-page trade paperback **£17.95**

EISNER AWARD NOMINEE!

THE COMIC BOOK ARTIST COLLECTION VOL. TWO

Second volume in the series, reprinting the Eisner Award-winning **COMIC BOOK ARTIST #5-6** (spotlighting 1970s DC and Marvel comics), plus over **50 NEW PAGES** of features and art:

- New interviews with **MARSHALL ROGERS, STEVE ENGLEHART, & TERRY AUSTIN** on their highly-acclaimed 1970s Batman work!
- An extensive look at perhaps the rarest 1970s comic of all, DC's **CANCELLED COMIC CAVALCADE**, showcasing unused stories from that decade!

208-page trade paperback **£15.95**

G-FORCE: ANIMATED THE OFFICIAL BATTLE OF THE PLANETS GUIDEBOOK

The official compendium to the Japanese animated TV program that revolutionized anime across the globe! Featuring plenty of unseen artwork and designs from the wondrous world of **G-FORCE** (a.k.a. Science Ninja Team Gatchaman), it presents interviews and behind-the-scenes stories of the pop culture phenomenon that captured the hearts and imagination of Generation X, and spawned the new hit comic series! Co-written by **JASON HOFIUS** and **GEORGE KHOURY**, this **FULL-COLOR** account is highlighted by a **NEW PAINTED COVER** from **ALEX ROSS!**

96-page trade paperback **£13.50**

COMICS ABOVE GROUND

SEE HOW YOUR FAVORITE ARTISTS MAKE A LIVING OUTSIDE COMICS

COMICS ABOVE GROUND features top comics pros discussing their inspirations and training, and how they apply it in "Mainstream Media," including Conceptual Illustration, Video Game Development, Children's Books, Novels, Design, Illustration, Fine Art, Storyboards, Animation, Movies & more! Written by **DURWIN TALON** (author of the top-selling **PANEL DISCUSSIONS**), this book features creators sharing their perspectives and their work in comics and their other professions, with overviews, never-before-seen art and interviews! Featuring:

- **BRUCE TIMM**
- **BERNIE WRIGHTSON**
- **ADAM HUGHES**
- **LOUISE SIMONSON**
- **DAVE DORMAN**
- **GREG RUCKA & MORE!**

160-page trade paperback **£15.95**

WALLACE WOOD CHECKLIST

Lists Wood's **PUBLISHED COMICS WORK** in detail, plus **FANZINE ART, ADVERTISING ILLUSTRATIONS, UNPUBLISHED WORK** and more. Illustrated with rare and unseen Wood artwork!

68 pages **£4.95**

JACK KIRBY CHECKLIST

Lists all of Jack Kirby's **PUBLISHED COMICS** in detail, plus **PORTFOLIOS, UNPUBLISHED WORK**; even cross-referenced reprints! Filled with rare Kirby artwork!

100 pages **£4.95**

ALTER EGO: THE CBA COLLECTION

Reprints the **ALTER EGO** flip-sides from the out-of-print **COMIC BOOK ARTIST #1-5** plus **30 NEW PAGES** of features & art:

- Special color cover by **JOE KUBERT!**
- All-new rare and previously-unpublished art by **JACK KIRBY, GIL KANE, JOE KUBERT, WALLY WOOD, FRANK ROBBINS, NEAL ADAMS** and others!
- **STEVE DITKO** on the creation of **SPIDER-MAN, ROY THOMAS** on **THE X-MEN, AVENGERS/KREE-SKRULL WAR, THE INVADERS** and more!

160-page trade paperback **£14.50**

FAWCETT COMPANION THE BEST OF FCA

Presenting the best of the **FAWCETT COLLECTORS OF AMERICA** newsletter!

- New **JERRY ORDWAY** cover!
- Index of **ALL FAWCETT COMICS!**
- Looks inside the **FAWCETT OFFICES!**
- Interviews, features, and rare and previously unpublished artwork by **C.C. BECK, MARC SWAYZE, KURT SCHAFFENBERGER, MAC RABOY, DAVE BERG, ALEX TOTH, BOB OKSNER, GEORGE EVANS, ALEX ROSS.** Foreword by **MARC SWAYZE**, and more!

160-page trade paperback **£14.50**

AGAINST THE GRAIN: MAD ARTIST WALLACE WOOD

The definitive biographical memoir on one of comics' finest, 20 years in the making!

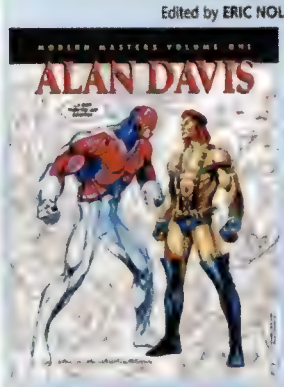
- Former associate **BHOB STEWART** traces Wood's life and career, with contributions from many artists and writers who knew Wood personally, making this a remarkable compendium of art, insights and critical commentary!
- From childhood drawings & early samples to nearly endless comics pages (many unpublished), this is the most stunning display of Wood art ever!
- **BILL PEARSON**, executor of the Wood Estate, has contributed rare drawings directly from Wood's own files, while noted art collector **ROGER HILL** provides a wealth of obscure, previously unpublished Wood drawings and paintings.
- Available in **SOFTCOVER** or **LIMITED EDITION HARDCOVER** with 16 extra full-color pages, plus bonus B&W plates!

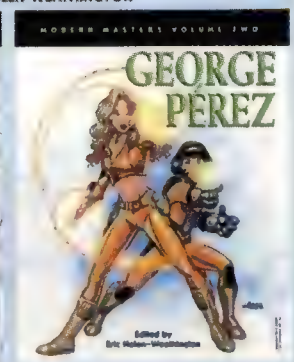
336-page trade paperback **£32.95**

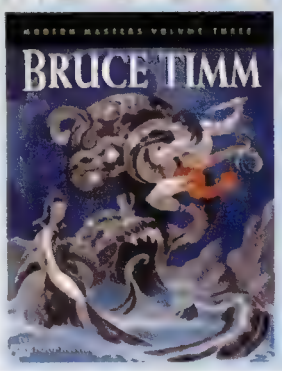
352-page limited hardcover **£45.00**

MODERN MASTERS SERIES

Edited by **ERIC NOLEN-WEATHINGTON**







A new series of trade paperbacks devoted to the **BEST OF TODAY'S COMICS ARTISTS!** Each volume contains **RARE AND UNSEEN ARTWORK** direct from the artist's files, plus a **COMPREHENSIVE INTERVIEW** (including influences and their views on graphic storytelling), **DELUXE SKETCHBOOK SECTIONS**, and more!

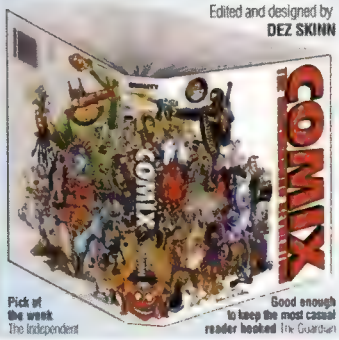
VOL. 1: ALAN DAVIS
128-page trade paperback **£11.95**

VOL. 2: GEORGE PÉREZ
128-page trade paperback **£11.95**

VOL. 3: BRUCE TIMM
128-page trade paperback **£13.50**

COMIX: THE UNDERGROUND REVOLUTION

Edited and designed by **DEZ SKINN**



Pick of the week The Independent

Good enough to keep the most casual reader hooked The Guardian

Nine colour-packed chapters covering the birth, life and apparent death of the US & UK counter-culture comix movement. From **ZAP** and **COZMIC COMIX** to **MAUS** and **NORTHERN LIGHTZ** plus such antecedents as **TIJUANA BIBLES** and the obvious descendents in today's wide range of alternative comics.

Includes spotlight features on **ART HOUSE COMIX, FRITZ THE CAT, AIR PIRATES VS DISNEY, THE POLITIX OF COMIX** and more

- Foreword by **DENIS (HOME GROWN FUNNIES) KITCHEN.**
- Detailed checklist of all US and UK comix titles with key art s's noted

288-page trade paperback **£14.95**

288-page limited hardcover ... **£24.95**

MR. MONSTER VOLUME ZERO

- 12 Tales of Mr. Monster, with 30 **ALL-NEW** pages by **MICHAEL T. GILBERT!**
- Collects hard-to-find stones & lost **NEWSPAPER STRIP!**
- New 8-page **FULL-COLOR STORY** by **KEITH GIFFEN & MICHAEL T. GILBERT!**

136-page paperback **£9.95**

CRAZY HIP GROOVY GO-GO WAY-OUT MONSTERS

PETE VON SHOLLY's spoof of monster mags will have you laughing your pants off – right after you soil them from sheer terror! 48 pages **£8**

ORDERING INFORMATION: All prices include post & packing charges for inland orders and seamail overseas. For airmail overseas, please add $1.50 per item ordered. All items are in stock and mailed out within seven days, if not by return post. All cheques/money orders should be made payable to Quality Communications Limited.

Quality Communications Limited
345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ Tel: 01273 566 222 Email: qualitymailsale@yahoo.co.uk

VISA MasterCard

Quality magazines & books available through Quality Communications

THE HOUSE OF HAMMER

Edited by DEZ SKINN

HOUSE OF HAMMER voted "best UK comic" in both 1975 and 1976's Eagle Awards, not only introduced under 18s to Hammer horror films through full length comics adaptations, it was also the main showcase for UK comics talent. Within its pages, readers discovered the work of Brian Bolland, John Bolton, Dave Gibbons, Ian Gibson, David Lloyd and Angus McKie alongside established talents including Brian Lewis, Paul Neary and Steve Parkhouse plus US artists Neal Adams & Berni Wrightson and many, many more. Rediscover the world of Hammer in strips and features through these original first edition classics

HoH 1 .....£7.50/$11.50

Cover: Joe Petagno. *Strips:* **Dracula** (Skinn & Neary), **Terror Tale** (Steve Moore & Angus McKie), Kronos Pt 1 (S Moore & Ian Gibson). *Key feature* Christopher Lee filmography

HoH 7 .....£5.00/$7.50

Cover: Brian Lewis. *Strips* **Twins of Evil** (Lowder & Gallagher) **Terror Tale** (Gibbons). *Feature writers* Brosnan, Gifford on Boris Karloff) Vahimagi The Omen preview

HoH 8 .....£5.00/$7.50

Cover: Brian Lewis. *Strips:* **Quatermass Xperiment** (Lilley + Aldrich & Lewis), **Shandor** (S Moore & Bolton), **Terror Tale** (Adrian & Colquhoun). *Features:* Brosnan, Crawley, Gifford

HoH 9 .....£5.00/$7.50

Cover: Brian Lewis. *Strips:* **Quatermass Xperiment** (Lilley + Aldrich & Lewis), **Terror Tale** (Steve Moore & Baikie). *Feature writers:* Brosnan, Crawley, Fleming, Vahimagi

HoH 11.....£7.50/$11.50

Cover: Lewis. *Strips:* **The Gorgon** (Scott Goodall & Goring/Cuyas), **Terror Tale** (S Moore & Lewis). *Features:* Ray Harryhausen on horror, Peter Cushing Gallery, Gifford, Lofficier, Morlot, etc...

HoH 13 .....£7.50/$11.50

Cover: Lewis. *Strips:* **Plague of the Zombies** (S Moore & Goring/Bolland), **Terror Tale** (Parkhouse & Lewis). *Key features:* Star Wars preview, zombie movies by Alan Frank, J-M Lofficier...

HoH 14 .....£7.50/$11.50

Cover: Lewis. *Strip* **One Million Years BC** (S Moore & Bolton). *Key features* George Romero and John Carradine interviews. *Features:* Alan Jones, J-M Lofficier, Brosnan, Crawley, etc...

HoH 15 .....£5.00/$7.50

Cover: Lewis. *Strips* **The Mummy's Shroud** (Avenall & Jackson) **Terror Tale** (Chester/Gibbons). *Features* Romero interview, Mummy films, Alan Frank, John Brosnan, etc...

HoH 18 .....£7.50/$11.50

Cover: Bill Phillips. *Strips* **Dracula Frankenstein & the Werewolf** (Neal Adams & Dick Giordano) **Terror Tale** (Avenall & Sola). *Key features:* Peter Cushing interview, History of Hammer

HoH 19 .....£7.50/$11.50

Cover: Ramon Sola. *Strips* **The Reptile** (S Moore & Lewis) **Terror Tale** (Parkhouse). *Features:* Cushing checklist, History of Hammer Pt 2, Alan Frank, Fleming, Vahimagi, Crawley, etc...

HoH 21 .....£5.00/$7.50

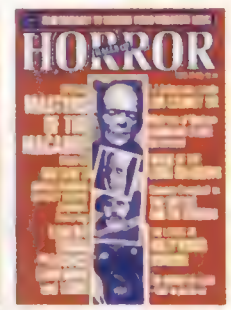
Cover: Villagran. *Strips.* **Shandor** (S Moore & Bolton), **Terror Tale** (Wrightson). *Features:* Christopher Lee interview, History of Hammer pt 4, *Writers:* Brosnan, Frank, Sheridan, etc.

HoH 22 .....£5.00/$7.50

Cover: Lewis. *Strips:* **The Mummy** (S Moore & Jackson), **Terror Tale** (Parkhouse & Gaudenzi). *Features:* Mummy films, Warlords of the Deep, *Writers:* Brosnan, Gifford, Sheridan...

HoH 23 .....£5.00/$7.50

Cover: Keenan Forbes. *Strips:* **Quatermass II** (Parkhouse & Lloyd), **Terror Tale** (S Moore & Gibbons). *Features:* Dario Argento interview, 3D movies, *Writers:* Gifford, Jones, Sheridan, etc



HoH 26 .....£5.00/$7.50

Cover: Leach. *Strip* **Monster Club** (Skinn & Bolton/Lloyd) *Features:* Ackerman on Lon Chaney Sr. Pete Walker & Barbara Steele filmographies, Ramsey Campbell, Steven Jones

HoH 27 .....£5.00/$7.50

Cover: Mick Austin. *Strip.* **Brides of Dracula** (S Moore & J Stokes). *Features:* Video Horror A-Z (800+ listing), History of Hammer pt 7, Ramsey Campbell Randy Palmer...

HoH 29 .....£5.00/$7.50

Cover: Gary Ward. *Strip:* **Terror Tale** (Vahimagi & Lewis). *Features:* After Mad Max (by Kim Newman), History of Hammer 9, Steve Jones, Ramsey Campbell, Randy Palmer..

STARBURST

SCIENCE FANTASY IN TELEVISION, CINEMA AND COMICS

Edited by DEZ SKINN

Launched as a companion title to **House of Hammer** in 1977, **Starburst** added the luxury of some colour interior pages to the comics and film features mix, focusing on science fiction in film and TV. The country's longest running SF media magazine, it is still being published, having recently celebrated its 300th issue! While comic strips have long since disappeared from the format, we still have copies available of the very earliest issues, setting the standard for **SFX** and all that followed.

Starburst 1 ...£5.00/$7.50

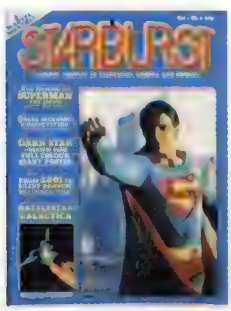
Cover: Lewis. *Strips by* Lewis, Gibbons & Sydney Jordan (**Jeff Hawke**) Harry Harrison short story, Trek writers guide, Making of Star Wars feature (Brosnan)

Starburst 1 ...£5.00/$7.50

Cover: Space Cruiser Yamato. *Strips by* Starlin & Sydney Jordan (**Jeff Hawke**) C-3PO/Tony Daniels interview, Wizards, The Prisoner, Ray Bradbury on CE3K...

Starburst 3 ...£5.00/$7.50

Cover: Close Encounters. *Features:* John Baxter on CE3K, Harrison Ford interview History of SF movies (Brosnan), Star Trek the movie, Superman, Logan's Run



Starburst 5 ...£5.00/$7.50

Cover: Superman. *Features:* Dark Star, Doug Trumbell interview Battlestar Galactica, Lucas & Spielberg, Star Dust, Metal Messiah..

ORDERING INFORMATION: All prices include post & packing charges for inland orders and seamail overseas. For airmail overseas, please add $1.50 per item ordered. All items are in stock and mailed out within seven days if not by return post. All cheques/money orders should be made payable to Quality Communications Limited

Quality Communications Limited

345 Dichling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ Tel: 01273 566 222 Email: qualitymailsale@yahoo.co.uk

VISA MasterCard

Quality magazines & books available through Quality Communications

Alter Ego

Edited by
ROY THOMAS

ALTER EGO, the greatest 'zine of the '60s, is back and all-new, focusing on Golden & Silver Age comics and creators with articles, interviews and unseen art. Each issue includes an FCA (Fawcett Collectors of America) section, Mr. Monster, and more!

AE #2: (100 pgs.) All-new! EISNER "SPIRIT" story, KANE, FOX & SCHWARTZ on The Atom, L. LIEBER & JACK BURNLEY intvs, KANIGHER FCA, new color BURNLEY & KANE covers, more! **£4.00**

AE #3: (100 pgs.) ALEX ROSS cover & interview, JERRY ORDWAY, BILL EVERETT, CARL BURGOS, Giant FAWCETT (FCA) section with C.C BECK, MARC SWAYZE, & more! **£4.00**

AE #4: (100 pgs.) 60 years of HAWKMAN & FLASH! ROY THOMAS remembers GIL KANE, intvs. with KUBERT, MOLDOFF, LAMPERT, FOX, FCA with BECK & SWAYZE, KUBERT covers, more! **£4.00**

AE #5: (100 pgs.) JSA issue! Intvs. with SHELLY MAYER, GIL KANE, MART NODELL, GEORGE ROUSSOS, FCA with BECK & SWAYZE, NEW INFANTINO / ORDWAY wrap-around cover, more! **£4.00**

AE #6: (100 pgs.) GENE COLAN intv., how-to books by STAN LEE & KANIGHER, ALL-STAR SQUADRON, MAC RABOY section, FCA with BECK & SWAYZE, COLAN & RABOY covers, more! **£4.00**

AE #7: (100 pgs.) Companion issue to the ALL-STAR COMPANION! J. SCHWARTZ intv., JLA-JSA teamups, MAC RABOY, FCA with BECK & SWAYZE, BUCKLER & BECK covers, more! **£4.00**

AE #8: (100 pgs.) Bio of WALLY WOOD, ADKINS & PEARSON intvs, KUBERT intv, FCA w/ BECK, SWAYZE & ORDWAY, MR. MONSTER, WOOD & KUBERT covers, more! **£4.00**

AE #9: (100 pgs.) JOHN ROMITA intv. & gallery, plus ROY THOMAS dream projects! FCA with BECK, SWAYZE, & TUSKA, MR. MONSTER, ROMITA & DICK GIORDANO covers! **£4.00**

AE #10: (100 pgs.) CARMINE INFANTINO intvs. & art never-seen FLASH story, VIN SULLIVAN & MAGAZINE ENTERPRISES, FRED GUARDINEER, AYERS, FCA, MR. MONSTER, more! **£4.00**

AE #11: (100 pgs.) Interviews with SYD SHORES, MICKEY SPILLANE, VINCE FAGO, MAGAZINE ENTERPRISES Part Two, FCA with BECK, SWAYZE, DON NEWTON, MR. MONSTER, more! **£4.00**

AE #12: (100 pgs.) GILL FOX on QUALITY COMICS never seen PAUL REINMAN Green Lantern art, origins of ALL STAR SQUADRON, FCA, MR. MONSTER on WALLY WOOD, more! **$8 US**

AE #13: (100 pgs.) TITANS OF TIMELY MARVEL Part Two! JOE SIMON & MURPHY ANDERSON covers Silver Age AVENGERS section (with BUSCEMA, HECK, TUSKA & THOMAS), & more! **$8 US**

AE #14: (100 pgs.) JSA FROM THE 40s TO THE 80s! MIKE NASSER & MICHAEL T. GILBERT covers, intvs. with ORDWAY & LEE ELIAS, never-seen 1940s JSA pgs., 70s JSA, & more! **£4.00**

AE #15: (108 pgs.) JOHN BUSCEMA TRIBUTE ISSUE! BUSCEMA covers & interview, unseen art, ROY THOMAS on their collaborations, plus salute to KURT SCHAFFENBERGER, & more! **£4.00**

AE #16: (108 pgs.) COLAN, BUSCEMA, ROMITA, SEVERIN interviews, ALEX ROSS on Shazam!, OTTO & JACK BINDER, KURTZMAN, new ROSS & FRADON/SEVERIN covers, more! **£4.00**

AE #17: (108 pgs.) LOU FINE overview & art, ARNOLD DRAKE & MURPHY ANDERSON interviews, plus EISNER, CRANDALL, DAVIS & EVANS non-EC action comics, FCA, LOU FINE cover, more! **£4.00**

AE #18: (108 pgs.) STAN GOLDBERG interview & art plus KIRBY, DITKO, HECK, ROMITA, BUSCEMA, EVERETT, WALLY WOOD'S Flash Gordon, FCA, KIRBY & SWAYZE covers, more! **£4.00**

AE #19: (108 pgs.) DICK SPRANG interview & art, JERRY ROBINSON on FRED RAY, BOB KANE, CARMINE INFANTINO, ALEX TOTH, WALLY WOOD, FCA, SPRANG & RAY covers, more! **£4.00**

AE #20: (108 pgs.) TIMELY/MARVEL focus, INVADERS overview with KIRBY, KANE, ROBBINS, BOB DESCHAMPS intv., panel with FINGER, BINDER, FOX, & WEISINGER, FCA, rare art, more! **£4.00**

AE #21: (108 pgs.) IGER STUDIO with art by EISNER, FINE, MESKIN, ANDERSON, CRANDALL, CARDY, EVANS, "SHEENA" section, THOMAS on the JSA, FCA, DAVE STEVENS cover, more! **£4.00**

AE #22: (108 pgs.) EVERETT & KUBERT interviewed by GIL KANE & NEAL ADAMS, ROY THOMAS on Sub-Mariner, COLAN, BUSCEMA, SEVERIN, WOOD, FCA, BECK & EVERETT covers, more! **£4.00**

AE #23: (108 pgs.) Two unseen Golden Age WONDER WOMAN stories examined, BOB FUJITANI intv, Archie MLJs, JOHN ROSENBERGER & VICTOR GORELICK intvs, FCA, rare art, more! **£4.00**

AE #24: (108 pgs.) NEW X-MEN intvs with STAN LEE, COCKRUM, CLAREMONT, WEIN, DRAKE, SHOOTER, THOMAS, MORT MESKIN profiled, FCA, covers by COCKRUM & MESKIN! **£4.00**

AE #25: (108 pgs.) JACK COLE & PLASTIC MAN! Brother DICK COLE interviewed, Cole celebrated by ALEX TOTH, THOMAS on All-Star Squadron #1, JERRY BAILS tribute, FCA, cover by TOTH! **£4.00**

AE #26: (108 pgs.) JOE SINNOTT interview, KIRBY and BUSCEMA art, IRWIN DONENFELD, Superman art by SHUSTER, BORING, SWAN, FCA, Mr. MONSTER, covers by SINNOTT & BORING! **£4.00**

AE #27: (108 pgs.) VIN SULLIVAN interview, "Lost" KIRBY HULK covers, the 1948 NY CON, "Great Unknown" artists, KURTZMAN, FCA, ALEX TOTH, MR. MONSTER, covers by BURNLEY & KIRBY! **£4.00**

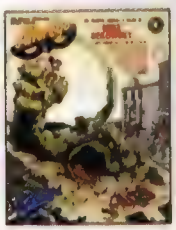
AE #28: (108 pgs.) JOE MANEELY spotlight, scarce Marvel art by EVERETT, SEVERIN, DITKO, ROMITA extra-size FCA, LEE AMES intv., covers by MANEELY & DON NEWTON! **£4.00**

AE #29: (108 pgs.) FRANK BRUNNER intv., EVERETT's Venus, Classics Illustrated adapting Lovecraft, LEE/KIRBY/DITKO prototypes, ALEX TOTH, FCA with GENE COLAN, BRUNNER cover! **£4.00**

AE #30: (108 pgs.) SILVER AGE JLA special, ALEX ROSS on the JLA, MIKE SEKOWSKY, DICK DILLIN, GOLDEN AGE SIMON & KIRBY scripters speak, FRENCH HEROES, ROSS & RUDE covers! **£4.00**

AE #31: (108 pgs.) DICK AYERS intv., HARLAN ELLISON'S Marvel work with Bullpen artists, LEE/KIRBY/DITKO prototypes, Christmas cards from cartoonists, AYERS & RAY covers! **£4.00**

AE #32: (108 pgs.) Golden Age TIMELY ARTISTS intv., MART NODELL, MIKE GOLD on the Silver Age, art by SIMON & KIRBY, SWAN, INFANTINO, KANE, GIORDANO & GIL KANE covers! **£4.00**



AE #33: (108 pgs.) MIKE SEKOWSKY tribute intvs. with wife PAT SEKOWSKY and Golden Age inker VALERIE BARCLAY, art by ANDERSON, ANDRU & ESPOSITO, INFANTINO, FRENZ covers! **£4.00**

AE #34: (108 pgs.) QUALITY COMICS intvs. with ALEX KOTZKY, CHUCK CUIDERA, DICK ARNOLD, TOTH, KURTZMAN, art by FINE, EISNER, COLE, CRANDALL, and NICHOLAS covers! **£4.00**

AE #35: (108 pgs.) STAN LEE, JOHN ROMITA, DICK AYERS, ROY THOMAS, & AL JAFFEE on the 1940s & 1950s Golden Age at Timely/Marvel, FCA, MR. MONSTER, ROMITA and JAFFEE covers! **£4.00**

AE #36: (108 pgs.) JOE SIMON intv. & cover, GOLDEN AGE HEROES of Canada, ROY THOMAS, MICHAEL T. GILBERT on MR. MONSTER'S ORIGINS, FCA, ALEX TOTH, and more! **£4.00**

AE #37: (108 pgs.) WAYNE BORING cover, SY BARRY intv., Superman's K-Metal story, FCA with C.C. BECK, MARC SWAYZE, DON NEWTON and Shazam!/Isis! MR. MONSTER and more! **£4.00**

AE #38: (108 pgs.) JULIUS SCHWARTZ issue! Intvs. by DORF & MURRAY! Art by TOTH, SWAN & more! FCA! TOTH! M.T. GILBERT! INFANTINO & HASEN covers! (Ships in July 2004) **£4.00**

AE #39: (108 pgs.) JERRY ROBINSON issue! Long intv by JIM AMASH! Art by MESKIN, KANE, SPRANG, DITKO, more! FCA! TOTH! M.T. GILBERT! Two ROBINSON covers! (Ships in August 2004) **£4.00**

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Save the cost of international postage by subscribing through the American publisher's official UK agent. Six issues: £20 (£4 saving!) 12 issues £40 (£8 saving!). Subs can start from any issue from #2 onwards! All prices inclusive of p&p. Cheques payable to Quality.

Quality Communications Limited

345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ Tel: 01273 566 222 Email: qualitymailsale@yahoo.co.uk

VISA

Quality magazines & books available through Quality Communications

COMIC BOOK ARTIST

FIRST SERIES BACK ISSUES

Edited by **JON B. COOKE**

#7: MARVEL IN THE 1970s

- A new **PAUL GULACY COVER** to complement his **NEW INTERVIEW** on **MASTER OF KUNG-FU!**
- **JOHN BYRNE** interview about his first days working Marvel-style!
- Interview with other 1970s Marvel stalwarts, including **DOUG MOENCH, ROY THOMAS, JIM STARLIN, STEVE ENGLEHART, DAN ADKINS, JIM MOONEY, STEVE GERBER & RICH BUCKLER!**
- A look at the **SECRET ORIGINS OF THE DIRECT MARKET** for comics!

132 pages.....**£6.00**

#9: THE CHARLTON COMICS STORY

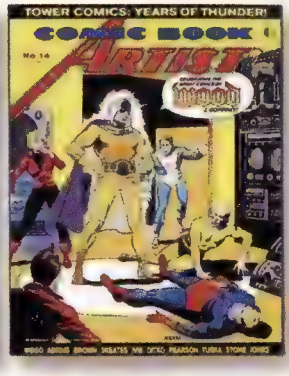
- New **DICK GIORDANO COVER** of the **CHARLTON ACTION HEROES!**
- Little-known historical overview of **CHARLTON'S HISTORY!**
- Interviews with **DICK GIORDANO, JOE GILL, DENNIS O'NEIL, ROY THOMAS, PETE MORISI, JIM APARO, SAM GLANZMAN, FRANK McLAUGHLIN, STEVE SKEATES** and others who worked for Charlton in the 1960s!
- **ALAN MOORE** on **WATCHMEN'S CONNECTION TO CHARLTON!**

116 pages.....**£6.00**

#11: ALEX TOTH & SHELLY MAYER

- In-depth **ALEX TOTH INTERVIEW**, including a Q&A about how he approaches his art!
- **TOTH CHECKLIST**, plus top pros paying **TRIBUTE TO ALEX!**
- Flip-side tribute to **SHELDON MAYER**, with examinations of his work on **SUGAR & SPIKE** and **SCRIBBLY!**
- Interviews with **MAYER'S SON & DAUGHTER**, the real-life inspiration for Sugar & Spike!
- **UNSEEN ART** by **TOTH & MAYER!**

116 pages.....**£6.00**



#14: WALLY WOOD & TOWER COMICS

- Rare **WALLACE WOOD** interview conducted by **SHEL DORF!**
- Plenty of unseen **WOOD ART!**
- An in-depth look at the rise and fall of **TOWER COMICS!**
- Interviews with **DAN ADKINS, LEN BROWN, STEVE SKEATES, GEORGE TUSKA, BILL PEARSON, RUSS JONES** and other Tower Comics alumni!
- A **TOWER COMICS CHECKLIST!**
- The 1980s **THUNDER AGENTS REVIVAL** and more!

116 pages.....**£6.00**

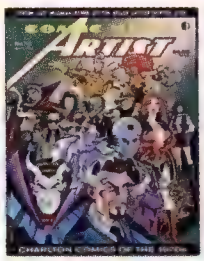
#20: THE ROMITAS & THE KUBERTS

- Special **FATHERS & SONS ISSUE!**
- Career-spanning interviews with and art by **JOHN ROMITA SR.** and **JOHN ROMITA JR.!**
- Flip-side interviews and art with **JOE, ADAM,** and **ANDY KUBERT!**
- Chats with the wives: **VIRGINIA ROMITA** and **MURIEL KUBERT!**
- Colossal collection of some of the finest **KUBERT** and **ROMITA ART** ever presented!
- Two **NEW COVERS,** pairing the respective **FATHER & SON TEAMS!**

116 pages.....**£6.00**

Find out for yourself why the first series of COMIC BOOK ARTIST is the 2000-2002 Eisner Award winner for BEST COMICS-RELATED MAGAZINE. Edited by John B. Cooke, it features in-depth articles, interviews and previously unseen artwork. All of which may explain why back issues are going fast!

CBA #10: (116 pgs.) WALTER SIMONSON, plus WOMEN OF THE COMICS! RAMONA FRADON, MARIE SEVERIN, TRINA ROBBINS, JOHN WORKMAN, new SIMONSON cover & more! **£6.00**



CBA #12: (116 pgs.) CHARLTON COMICS OF THE 1970s! Rare art/intvs with STATON, BYRNE, NEWTON, SUTTON, ZECK, NICK CUTI, a NEW E-MAN strip, new STATON cover & more! **£6.00**

CBA #13: (116 pgs.) MARVEL HORROR OF THE 1970s! Art/interviews with WOLFMAN, COLAN, PALMER, THOMAS, ISABELLA, PERLIN, TRIMPE, MARCOS, a new COLAN/PALMER cover, more! ...**£6.00**

CBA #15: (116 pgs.) LOVE & ROCKETEERS! Art by & intvs with DAVE STEVENS, LOS BROS HERNANDEZ, MATT WAGNER, DEAN MOTTER, new STEVENS/HERNANDEZ cover, more! **£6.00**

CBA #16: (132 pgs.) '70s ATLAS/SEABOARD COMICS! Art by & interviews with ERNIE CÓLON, CHAYKIN, ROVIN, AMENDOLA, HAMA, new CÓLON & KUPPERBERG covers, more! **£6.00**

CBA #17: (116 pgs.) ARTHUR ADAMS & CO! ART ADAMS interview & gallery, remembering GRAY MORROW, GEORGE ROUSSOS, GEORGE EVANS, new ART ADAMS cover, more! **£6.00**

CBA #18: (116 pgs.) COSMIC COMICS OF THE '70s! Art by & intvs with JIM STARLIN, ALAN WEISS, ENGLEHART, AL MILGROM, LEIALOHA, '60s Bullpen reunion, new STARLIN cover, more!...**£6.00**

CBA #19: (116 pgs.) HARVEY COMICS! Art by & intvs with SIMON & KIRBY, WALLY WOOD, AL WILLIAMSON, GIL KANE, SID JACOBSON, FRED RHOADES, MITCH O'CONNELL cover & more! **£6.00**

CBA #21: (116 pgs.) THE ART OF ADAM HUGHES! Art, interview & checklist with HUGHES, plus a day in the life of ALEX ROSS, JOHN BUSCEMA tribute, new HUGHES cover & more! **£6.00**

CBA #22: (116 pgs.) GOLD KEY COMICS! Art by & intvs. with RUSS MANNING, WALLY WOOD, JESSE SANTOS, MARK EVANIER, DON GLUT, new BRUCE TIMM cover & more! **£6.00**

CBA #23: (116 pgs.) MIKE MIGNOLA SPOTLIGHT, plus JILL THOMPSON: Sandman to Scary Godmother! Mignola INTERVIEW & ART GALLERY, extensive CHECKLIST, new cover & more! **£6.00**

CBA #24: (116 pgs.) COMICS OF NATIONAL LAMPOON with GAHAN WILSON, BODÉ, NEAL ADAMS, FRANK SPRINGER, ALAN KUPPERBERG, BOBBY LONDON, MICHAEL GROSS, & more! **£6.00**

CBA #25: (116 pgs.) ALAN MOORE'S ABC COMICS with MOORE, KEVIN NOWLAN, GENE HA, RICK VEITCH, J.H. WILLIAMS, SCOTT DUNBIER, JIM BAIKIE, and NOWLAN & WILLIAMS covers! **£6.00**

CBA COLLECTION Vol. One (228 pgs.) Reprints **CBA #1-3** plus 50 new pages of features and art: Unpublished JACK KIRBY story, NEAL ADAMS on Superman vs Muhammad Ali, unseen JEFF JONES & WRIGHTSON. ..**£17.95**

ORDERING INFORMATION:

BULK BUY & SAVE MONEY! Order six or more of these **Comic Book Artist Volume One** back issues and pay only £5.50 each (saving £3.00!) All prices include post & packing charges for inland orders and seamail overseas. For airmail overseas, please add $1.50 per item ordered. Almost all books in stock and, short of reorders, mailed out in 7 days. All cheques/money orders should be made payable to Quality Communications Limited.

Quality Communications Limited

345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ Tel: 01273 566 222 Email: qualitymailsale@yahoo.co.uk

VISA MasterCard

Mike Mignola: To Hellboy and back again

Novel Graphics by Paul Gravett

Highlighting the latest and best in graphic novels

MAYBE his obsession with all things monstrous really started with the book Pilgrim's Progress.

It's a fantastical vision of the perils and rewards of the religious life told through a man named Christian and his allegorical journey through humanity and hell to reach heaven. The fervent English preacher John Bunyan wrote this tract during six months' imprisonment for his religious views in 1673.

It became the most widely published and read book after the Bible and, centuries later, it was still in print.

A copy waited in an Oakland, California elementary school for a young American boy to discover in the mid-'60s. He found the antiquated text too difficult to read, but the richly detailed illustrations burned themselves into his impressionable brain. Instead of inspiring a religious conversion, however, what transfixed this youngster about the book's plates were the vivid glimpses they gave him into other unimagined worlds, especially one showing a knight in armour embroiled with a giant serpent. From that first childhood taste, Mike Mignola acquired an appetite for myths and monsters.

Above: The multi-awarded gothic monster man himself, Mike Mignola.

When he was seven, his mother died. This real-life horror could have been traumatic for him, but instead it seems to have brought him even closer to his two younger brothers. Quiet, creative kids, they helped take care of each other and escaped by sharing Marvel comicbooks and horror and fantasy fiction.

A passionate student of illustration, Mignola (a Swiss-Italian name pronounced Min-YO-la) broke into Marvel Comics from fanzines at the age of 19, initially as an inker. Never interested in superheroes but fitting into their house style, he bounced from pencilling one series to the next until 1987, when First Comics offered him Michael Moorcock's **Chronicles of Corum**. Mignola leapt at the chance to illustrate one of his favourite author's heroes. Sword-and-sorcery was a genre he returned to later to adapt Fritz Leiber's **Fafhrd and the Gray Mouser** for Epic and DC.

The first of two liberating growth spurts came on DC's **Cosmic Odyssey** in 1988. For this Mignola immersed himself in Jack Kirby's artwork, which helped him understand Kirby's exaggerated yet unrealistic anatomy and the almost carved solidity beneath the surface details.

The second change was the advice that he should add more shadows to strengthen his figures' presence and enhance the mood. The sheer quantity of luscious, thick black ink inundating his pages was a revelation, especially on 1989's Batman *Elseworlds* story **Gotham by Gaslight**, set in the London streets of Jack the Ripper.

Mignola was increasingly hankering to create a character that suited him and to put him into stories of his own. He had a wacky name scribbled in a sketchbook. That name, and Mignola's reputation, were enough for Dark Horse to give him carte blanche to unleash his own comic in 1994.

Relatively new to writing, Mignola kept his hero's origins unknown, always handy when you're not totally sure yourself. All we learnt is that he first appeared on Earth on December 23rd, 1944, appropriately the Eve of Christmas Eve, in a huge fireball in an old church in East Bromwich. A bright red child with cloven hooves, sawn-off horns, forked tail and a huge right hand of stone, he could only be called Hellboy.

Mignola's learning curve as a writer and artist took off from his very first book, **Seed of Destruction**. Here he had some scripting help from veteran John Byrne, bu he was soon editing and re-writing his texts to make them less slick, more deliberately terse, even awkward. He was finding his voice

All the old tales he loved from world folklore swept into his plots as he sourced them back to their roots, before rules and familiarity wrapped themselves around those ancient legends like tentacles choking a helpless victim.

Mignola's choreography of colour and blacks in varied panel groupings creates an almost stained-glass effect out of his pages. In his shades of red, Hellbo grabs the eye like a car crash or autopsy, the only other red on the pages being blood. Kirby is the enduring influence, of course: Hellboy has The Thing's right hand, he looks related to Kirby's Demon and his Atlas monsters, with the horns of Surtur out of **Thor**. But visually, Mignola also looks beyond comics, to a Goya engraving, a Dürer woodcut, letting the art of the past seep into comics.

At first, Hellboy was in denial about his past – after all he knew 'It's not going to be good'. Mignola too wanted to keep the concept simple and accessible – a big, cool-looking red demon guy battling monsters. Raised on a army base in New Mexico and granted honorary human status by the United Nations in 1952, Hellboy joined the Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense to defend us from evil.

Hellboy grabs the eye like a car crash or autopsy

In subsequent stories Mignola has revealed more of the awful truth, and added a dimension and sympathy through Hellboy's rejection of his mission to wipe out mankind, a rebellion symbolised by his breaking off his horns.

Determined above all not to take himself too seriously, Mignola injects a dry sense of humour that has kept the series fresh and surprising. The very fact that this hulking, stubbled creature is still called Hellboy as an adult is quite deliberate. The gruff, cynical Hellboy punctures any pretension and acts as a mechanism to stop Mignola getting too grim or pompous. Mignola can lighten the tone brilliantly, as in a two-page flashback which shows Hell lost its grip on Hellboy from the very moment he had his first taste, at the age of two, of pancakes.

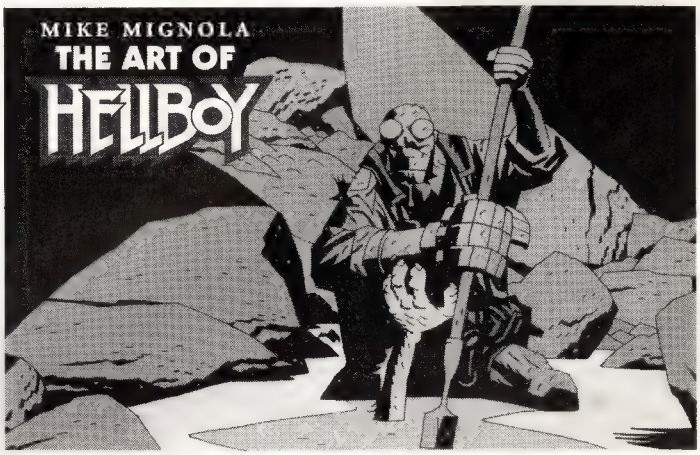
Hellboy has been spun off into prose novels, the comedy satire **Hellboy Junior**, a **Weird Tales** anthology for other creators to try their hand, a **B.P.R.D.** series, merchandise galore and now a Hollywood movie.

In some ways, from being his playground, Hellboy seems to have become something of a burden to Mignola as he elaborated his history. So as a complete break, in 2002 he fabricated the deliriously loopy Amazing Screw-On Head. This clunky robot secret agent screws his head onto all manner of metal bodies. Teamed with the equally warped Mr Groin, he is in service to none other than President Lincoln.

These bizarre unsung heroes prove that perhaps Mignola's greatest flair is actually for all-out absurd humour – funny ha-ha as much as funny peculiar.

Mignola enjoys the freedom to let his story wander off down unexpected corridors, so he can surprise himself as much as his readers.

Shadows have never seemed quite so inviting.



Advance Listings

READERS: You can use this Advance Listings *section as an order form with your direct market store or mail order supplier. Simply mark the items you require, copy or remove these pages (or list them on a separate piece of paper) and give it to your supplier, together with a note of your name, address and phone number to guarantee not missing any of the new titles being published. Certain suppliers may not accept standing orders, so check with them first. All prices of US titles listed are in dollars. Import prices are usually converted at a rate of $1.00 = 85p UK sterling. Shipping dates given are the earliest date product will reach stores. All dates, prices and information are assumed to be accurate as provided by publishers.*

Compiled by Jim Hannah

The following are 32 page colour titles unless stated

ON SALE FROM

AUGUST 4

Dark Horse

Milkman Murders 2 (Joe Casey & Steve Parkhouse) The promiscuous daughter, the sadistic son, and the drug-addled, abusive husband all do their parts to erode our housekeeping heroine's last scrap of sanity in the wake of last issue's horrific events. $2.99

Oh My Goddess! 111 *(Sora Unchained* 7 of 8; Kosuke Fujishima) We find Sora Hasegawa and Keiichi Morisato neck-and-neck in the cutest and craziest motorised cart race in history. 48pg b&w $3.99

Spyboy: Final Exam 4 (Peter David & Pop Mhan) It's graduation day for the senior class of Rosenberg High, but where's Alex Fleming, a.k.a. SpyBoy? $2.99

Star Wars: Empire 24 *(Idiot's Array* 1 of 2; Ron Marz & Jeff Johnson) Han Solo and Chewbacca are tapped by the Rebel Alliance for a mission that requires their special skills and knowledge of the underworld. $2.99

DC Comics

new **Batman/Catwoman: Trail of the Gun** 1 (of 2; Ann Nocenti & Ethan Van Sciver) The entire underworld is pursuing the ultimate weapon – a gun that never misses. Catwoman considers the firearm to be the score of a lifetime, affirming forever her reputation as Queen of Thieves, if only she can keep it out of the hands of rival criminal factions. 48pg $5.95

Birds of Prey 71 *(Between Dark and Dawn* 3 of 6; Gail Simone & Ron Adrian + Alex Lei) Huntress' mission to the backwoods compound of a sinister Oregon cult goes seriously wrong. $2.50

The Books of Magick: Life During Wartime 2 (Si Spencer & Dean Ormston, *Vertigo)* Zatanna finds herself under attack as the siege at Krakow continues, and Constantine refuses help from two new allies. $2.95

one-shot **DC Comics Presents: Superman** 1 (Stan Lee + Paul Levitz & various) Features the first Superman story ever written by "legendary Marvel Comics legend" (it *actually* says here) Stan Lee. $2.50

Detective Comics 797 *(War Games* 1.1; Andersen Gabrych + Shane McCarthy & various) Gotham erupts in a massive gang war the likes of which have never been seen! Can Batman stem the tides of war? 40pg $2.95

Enginehead 5 (Joe Kelly & Ted McKeever) In Arizona's wintery desert, Enginehead must deal with a band of terrorists transporting a smart bomb What he's going to do about will defy belief, good sense, and the rules of hygiene. ... $2.50

Firestorm 4 (Dan Jolley & ChrisCross + Rob Stull) Jason Rusch struggles with living a normal life while simultaneously exploring his newfound abilities $2.50

Hard Time 7 (Steve Gerber & Brian Hurtt) With Ethan stuck in solitary, the aftershocks of his superpowered feats continue to shake B-block, as hardened gangbangers feel real fear for the first time. $2.50

Justice League Adventures 34 (Stuart Moore & Tim Levins + Mick Gray) A bullet from the alley where Batman's parents died! A broken piece of baby Superman's rocketship! What secret villain is gathering up deadly relics from the past, and how does Wonder Woman fit into his plot to destroy the Justice League? $2.25

Justice League Elite 2 (Joe Kelly & Doug Mahnke + Tom Nguyen) Sister Superior infiltrates the Blood Brothers' terrorist organisation disguised as Deathstroke – only to be found out. $2.50

The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen Vol 2 (Alan Moore & Kevin O'Neill; *America's Best Comics;* tpbk) Reprints the second 6 issue miniseries It's one month after the events in League of Extraordinary Gentlemen Vol 1, and the skies over England are filled with flaming rockets as Mars launches the first salvo of an invasion. 228pg $14.95

The Legion: Foundations (Dan Abnett + Andy Lanning & various; tpbk) The Legion embarks on a monumental mission by introducing the team's newest member: Superboy! Reprints The Legion #25-30 and material from The Legon Secret Files 2003. 176pg $19.95

Looney Tunes 117 (Earl Kress + Sam Agro & Omar Aranda + Alberto Saichann) Elmer hunts the rare jackalope – but will he bag Bugs or Daffy? $2.25

one-shot **Lucifer: Mansions of the Silence** (Mike Carey & various; *Vertigo;* tpbk) Reprinting #36-41. The strange crew of Lucifer Morningstar voyages on a ship made of dead men's nails in search of the soul of Elaine Belloc, the daughter of the Archangel Michael and the girl who gave her life to save Lucifer's. 144pg $14.95

MAD 445 (The Usual Gang of Idiots) When getting ready to hit the beach, don't forget that MAD's a surefire chick magnet. It's as essential as sunscreen. 48pg b&w $3.99

new **Majestic** 1 (of 4; Dan Aonett + Andy Lanning & Karl Kerschl) Picks up where the *Strange New Visitor* storyline in the Superman books left off. The brilliant mind of Mr Majestic has been anything but idle since his arrival in the DCU, and Superman isn't happy with what he's been up to. $2.95

The Monolith 7 *(Friendly Fire* 2 of 3; Jimmy Palmiotti + Justin Gray & Tomm Coker) The Incinerator has sworn to keep New York City terror-free by waging a one-man campaign of hate and providing some incendiary terror of his own! Can the Monolith help Batman track him down? $2.95

Scratch 3 (Sam Kieth) If Zack & his new female friend Sage are trying to save an entire town, then why does that town want them dead? $2.50

The Spirit Archives Vol 14 (Will Eisner; hbk) The adventures of Will Eisner's most famous creation continue in this volume reprinting the Spirit newspaper sections from 05/01/47 to 29/06/47. 196pg $49.95

one-shot **Superman: Godfall** (Michael Turner + Joe Kelly & Talent Caldwell + Jason Gorder; hbk) Collecting the storyline from Action Comics #812-813, Adventures of Superman #625-626 and #Superman 202-203. 112pg $19.95

Swamp Thing 6 *(Bad Seed* 6 of 6; Andy Diggle & Enrique Breccia; *Vertigo)* Sargon's trap is sprung, and John Constantine must play the most dangerous game of his life. $2.95

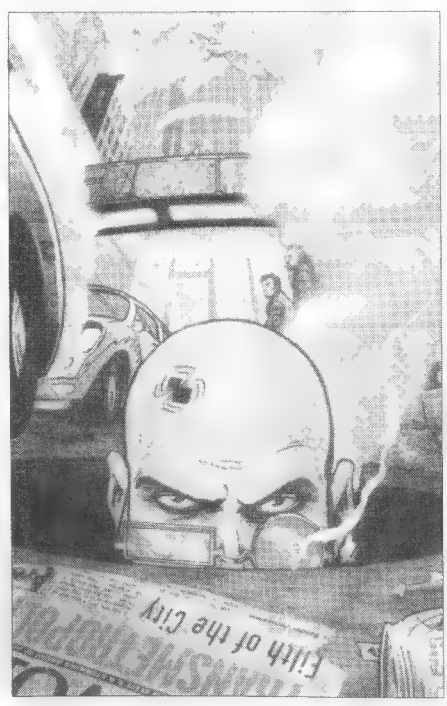
Thundercats: Enemy's Pride 3 (John Layman & Joe Vriens + Roberto Campos; *WildStorm)* Panthro is gone, and Lion-O is demented, dangerous and more powerful than ever. .. $2.95

one-shot **Transmetropolitan: Tales of Human Waste** (Warren Ellis & various; *Vertigo;* tpbk) *See Close-Up, below.*

Wildcats Version 3.0 #24 (Joe Casey & Duncan Rouleau + John Dell; *WildStorm)* Jack Marlowe makes a fateful decision that will either save the lives of his friends in Greece or guarantee their deaths. $2.95

one-shot **Wildcats/ Cyberforce: Killer Instinct** (various; *WildStorm;* tpbk) Will the mysterious Misery get between Warblade and Ripclaw, and tear two teams apart? 160pg $14.95

Y: The Last Man 25 *(Tongues of Flame* 2 of 2; Brian K. Vaughan & Pia Guerra + Jose Marzan, Jr; *Vertigo)* The last man on earth is desperately searching for forgiveness from what remains of the Catholic Church, but a trinity of women will do whatever it takes to stop him. $2.95



close-up

Transmetropolitan: Tales of Human Waste

Vertigo

Writer: Warren Ellis

Artists: various

This collection presents a whole bunch of one- or two-page pieces from a range of comics' most celebrated artists. Collects Transmetropolitan: I Hate It Here and Transmetropolitan: Filth of the City, as well as the eight-page Christmas story from Vertigo: Winter's Edge #2. Mature readers. 112pg $9.95

ON SALE AUGUST 4

Marvel

Alpha Flight 6 *(You Gotta Be Kiddin' Me!* 6 of 6; Scott Lobdell & Clayton Henry) An action-packed finale. It's the All-New, All-Different Alpha Flight versus the alien Plodex with the original team's life hanging in the balance $2.99

Captain America & The Falcon 6 *(Avengers Disassembled* 2 of 4; Priest & Joe Bennett) Finding himself a fugitive from justice, The Falcon must battle his way past elite naval operatives while Cap must choose between his partner and his principles while suffering an enigmatic battle fatigue that replays Cap's worst failure and presents the Scarlet Witch as his only refuge. $2.99

new **Captain America & The Falcon Vol 1: Two Americas** (Priest & Bart Sears; tpbk) He has been his mentor, his leader and his friend. Now, Captain America takes on a new role in The Falcon's life: pursuer! Collecting issues #1-4 of Captain America & The Falcon. 96pg $9.99

Exiles 50 *(The Big M* 1 of 2; Tony Bedard & Mizuki Sakakibara) Celebrate the Exiles 50th anniversary as the reality-trotting team goes head-to-head against no less than the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. $2.99

one-shot **Marvel Age: Emma Frost Vol 1: Higher Learning Digest** (Karl Bolles & Randy Green) Learn the secret of how the Astonishing X-Men's diamond-sculpted seductress, Emma Frost, became the formidable woman she is today. Collects Emma Frost #1-6. 144pg $7.99

Marvel Age Fantastic Four 5 (various) What does Doom want... and why has he targeted Reed Richards and his family? $2.25

Marvel Age Spider-Man 9 (various) Spidey's hot on the trail of the elusive and talented Enforcers after a rash of hi-tech robberies in the area. $2.25

New X-Men Vol 3 (Grant Morrison & various; hbk) Wolverine and Cyclops join the mysterious Fantomex in an exploration of the Weapon Plus Programme. Collects New X-Men 142-154. 336pg $29.99

one-shot **Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe: Hulk 2004** #1 (Jeff Christiansen & various) The Mighty Marvel Handbook returns, featuring in-depth profiles on more than 30 of the Hulk's friends and foes. 48pg $3.99

Spider-Girl 77 (Tom DeFalco & Ron Frenz) Treachery runs rampant as Lady Octopus and Canis finally make their big play to seize control of the New York underworld, and Spider-Girl is suddenly forced to question her loyalties when she learns that Kaine plans to challenge the Black Tarantula to a death duel. .. $2.99

Starjammers 3 *(The Cadet and the Corsairs* 3 of 5; Kevin J. Anderson & Jorge Lucas) Young Tolo Hawk has been through hell, and as far as he's concerned, the interstellar pirates called the Starjammers are responsible for every minute of it. So what could happen to change his opinion of these uncouth pirates? $2.99

Thor 83 *(Ragnarok* 3 of 6; Michael Oeming & Andrea Di Vito) Beset on all sides by treacherous foes from his past, the God of Thunder leads the tattered remnants of the forces of Asgard on a desperate quest, as the Realm Eternal burns. $2.99

Thor Vol 6: Gods & Men (Dan Jurgens & Scot Eaton; tpbk) The heavens tremble as all the Thunder God has built comes to ruins – and those closest to Thor betray him! Collects Thor #75-79. 120pg $13.99

new **Ultimate Nightmare** 1 (of 5; Warren Ellis & Trevor Hairsine) As world communications systems break down, the source of the

anomaly is revealed as Tanguska, Russia. Nick Fury of S.H.I.E.L.D. leads a force comprised of Captain America, Black Widow and Sam Wilson to investigate. $2.25

Ultimate Spider-Man 63 *(Carnage* 4 of 6, Brian Michael Bendis & Mark Bagley) The origin of Ultimate Carnage and the horror that one Dr Curtis Connors has wrought. And Spider-Man may be helpless to stop it. $2.25

Ultimate Titles Ultimate X-Men 50 (Cry Wolf 1 of 4; Brian K. Vaughan & Andy Kubert) Gambit returns to Ultimate X-Men But what is he going to steal? And can the X-Men stop him? ... $2.25

Uncanny X-Men 447 *(The End of History* 4 of 4; Chris Claremont & Alan Davis) How do you beat a villain who can adapt to any threat and anticipate your every move? $2.25

Ultimate X-Men Vol 8: New Mutants (Brian Michael Bendis & David Finch; tpbk) Professor Charles Xavier gets the US Government involved in the mutant-training business. Collects Ultimate X-Men #40-45. 144pg $12.99

new **X-Force** 1 (Fabian Nicieza & Rob Liefeld) Cable, Domino, Cannonball, Shatterstar, Warpath and all the rest return in this new series. $2.99

X-Men Unlimited 4 (Lee Barnett + Ted Naifeh & Travel Foreman + Greg Tocchini) In *Testing Times* by Lee Barnett and Travel Foreman, Juggernaut wants to be a teacher at the Xavier Institute, but how can he be trusted to keep his temper around dozens of kids? $2.99

X-Men: The End Book One: Dreamers & Demons 2 (Chris Claremont & Sean Chen) Trilogy spanning the length and breadth of the X-Men canon, bringing the saga of Marvel's mutants to a climax. $2.99

ON SALE FROM

AUGUST 11

Dark Horse

Blade of the Immortal 92 *(Last Blood* 3 of 5, Hiroaki Samura) The Shingyoto-ryy swordsmen, on a quest to avenge the strange death of their schoolmaster, are split into three groups and fighting the three classiest swordfighters in the Blade universe. b&w $2.99

Fierce 2 (Jeremy Love & Robert Love + Jeff Wasson) Jonathan Fierce, a profiler for the FBI gifted with psychic abilities, failed to stop an explosion which has just killed his team of fellow agents, the only real family he's ever had. The FBI wants to charge him with the crime. $2.99

The Hire 2 *(Precious Cargo;* Bruce Campbell & Kilian Plunkett) The Driver's assignment takes him to the Motor City, where shuttling a pregnant school teacher to a suburban airport turns into a history lesson on Detroit's highways and byways – and a crash course in evasive driving. $2.99

The Ring Vol 3 (Koji Suzuki & Sakura Mizuki; tpbk) Psychological, scientific thriller featuring the art of Sakura Mizuki. Mature readers 192pg b&w $9.95

Shadow Star Vol 6: What Can I Do For You Now? (Mohiro Kitoh; tpbk) Finding and bonding with an adorable extraterrestrial with wondrous powers sounds like the perfect fantasy, a fantasy that becomes reality for Shi na and Akira, two typical Tokyo teens, as well as for an unknown number of other youths. But the brightest fantasies can cast the darkest shadows. Collects short stories from #31-37 of Super Manga Blast! 224pg b&w $15.95

Shi: Ju-Nen 3 (Billy Tucci) As Ana's grandfather Yoshitora's life hangs by a thread, Ana realises she must do battle against her greatest foe and best friend Tomoe. $2.99

DC Comics

100 Bullets 52 (Brian Azzarello & Eduardo Risso; *Vertigo)* As Wylie Times continues his vacation of vengeance against the ever-mysterious Agent Graves, he soon realises he's not the only player in town with similar plans $2.50

Action Comics 818 (Chuck Austen & Ivan Reis + Marc Campos) An injured Superman is surrounded inside STAR Labs with no way to get through the hordes of villains outside. $2.59

The Authority 14 (Robbie Morrison & Whilce Portacio and Sal Regla: *WildStorm)* When Jack's former girlfriend turns up brutally murdered, it will be difficult for The God of Cities to reconcile that period of his life, because of a secret he's long tried to forget. .. $2.95

Bite Club 5 (Howard Chaykin + David Tischman & David Hahn; *Vertigo)* While Leto learns more of the truth behind his father's murder, the still-wounded Carrie has a disturbing meeting with the Vampire Crime Unit, and Danny Del Toro brings a gun to school. $2.95

Bloodhound 2 (Dan Jolley & Leonard Kirk + Robin Riggs) The DC Universe's toughest new hero has been unleashed – but now he's getting, well, leashed. Will an electronic tracking collar be enough to keep this hound under control? $2.50

one-shot **DC Comics Presents: The Flash** 1 (Dennis O'Neil + Jeph Loeb & various) The cover of The Flash (original series) 163 inspires two stories, in which the Scarlet Speedster begs readers to pick up the issue because his life depends on it. $2.50

Fables 28 *(War Stories* 1 of 2; Bill Willingham & Tony Akins + Jimmy Palmiotti, *Vertigo)* Germany, 1944. Bigby Wolf, a member of Dog Company, is sent to the hills to find a monster named after a certain doctor who's too tough to kill, because he's already dead. $2.95

Gotham Central 22 (Ed Brubaker & Michael Lark + Stefano Gaudiano) At last, the truth about the infamous High School Baseball Massacre is revealed! Just what part did the Mad Hatter play in the murders years ago? $2.50

Green Arrow 42 (Judd Winick & Phil Hester + Ande Parks) The public and the press are up in arms over a series of brutal murders. A mysterious man known as Brick goes after the heads of all the crime families in Star City. $2.50

Identity Crisis 3 (Brad Meltzer & Rags Morales + Michael Bair) The mysterious murders in the DCU continue to fuel the flames of unrest in both the heroic community and the emerging cabal of villains. 40pg $3.95

JLA 103 (Chuck Austen & Ron Garney) *The Pain of the Gods* continues as Green Lantern John Stewart crosses the line in dealing with a sleazeball criminal. How far is too far when meting out justice? $2.25

JSA 64 *(Waking the Sandman* 2 of 2; Geoff Johns & Jerry Ordway + Wayne Faucher) With the help of Cave Carson, the JSA travel to the epicentre of strange tremors deep beneath the Earth's crust in search of Sand. $2.59

Legends of the Dark Knight 182 *(War Games* 1.2; A.J. Lieberman & Brad Walker + Troy Nixey) With the gang war raging and only Batgirl at his side, Batman is badly outnumbered. $2.50

The Legion 37 *(For No Better Reason* 3 of 4, Gail Simone & Dan Jurgens + Andy Smith) With power out across Metropolis, Karate Kid is left alone to face the escaping prisoners of the Oasis One. $2.50

Mad Color Special 10 (The Usual Gang of Idiots) Featuring classic MAD articles, most in colour for the first time! If you couldn't make out what something was in black and white, it becomes all too clear here. 48pg $3.99

The Metabarons (Alexandro Jodorowsky & Juan Gimenez; tpbk) Introduces the Metabarons' ancestors and reveals their origins in a galaxy corrupted by greed, power and terror. 136pg $14.95

Nightwing 96 *(War Games* 1.3; Devin Grayson & Mike Lilly + Andy Owens) With Batman in trouble, Dick Grayson must put aside his own feelings and return to Gotham City. $2.25

one-shot **Robin: Unmasked** (Bill Willingham & Rick Mays + various; tpbk) Collects #121-125. Batman turns up the heat on his young ward's training just as Tim is about to encounter the most bloodthirsty killer of his career. 128pg $12.95

The Sandman: Endless Nights (Neil Gaiman & various; *Vertigo)* Alternately haunting, bittersweet, erotic and nightmarish, the seven stories in this book – one for each of the Endless siblings, each illustrated by a different artist – reveal strange secrets and surprising truths. 160pg $17.95

Scooby-Doo 87 (various) Mystery Inc surfs with sharks and jousts with jesters at a medieval fair. $2.25

one-shot **Superman: The Greatest Stories Ever Told** (various; tpbk) Unique collection of some of the Man of Steel's most classic adventures See Superman's origin (Superman #1); *What if Superman Ended the War?* (Look Magazine); *Three Supermen from Krypton!* (Superman 65); *The Last Days of Superman* (Superman 156); *Must There Be a Superman?* (Superman 247); *The Exile at the Edge of Eternity* (Superman 400), and more. 192pg $19.95

Teen Titans 14 *(Beast Boys and Girls* 2 of 3; Geoff Johns & Tom Grummett + Marlo Alquiza) An entire school has been infected by the rare virus Sakutia – the disease that transformed Gar Logan into Beast Boy. $2.50

Marvel

Captain America 30 *(Avengers Disassembled* 2 of 4; Robert Kirkman & Scot Eaton) Cap and Diamondback are reunited after all these years, but their reunion is Bittersweet, as Cap is consumed with remorse over the cataclysmic events taking place in Avengers. $2.99

new **Doctor Spectrum** 1 (of 6; Samm Barnes & Travel Foreman, *Max Comics)* Learn the secret of Corporal Joe Ledger's dark past, and see the plans the crystal has for him. .. $2.99

District X #4 *(Mr. M* 4 of 6; David Hine & Lan Medina) Toad Juice, the mutant designer drug, has hit the streets with terrifying effects humans who take it die a horrible, disfiguring death. $2.99

Emma Frost 14 *(Bloom* 2 of 6; Karl Bollers & Carlo Pagulayan) Now a student at New York City's Empire State University, Emma Frost's looking to take a bite out of the Big Apple, but a new presence in her life may spell disaster for the young mutant before she can get her big start. $2.99

one-shot **Essential Iron Fist** Vol 1 (various, tpbk) Look back on the days when kung fu was king, and witness Iron Fist's progression from naive newcomer to hero for hire. Collects Marvel Premiere #15-25, Iron Fist #1-15, Marvel Team-Up #63-64 and Power Man & Iron Fist #48-50. 584pg $16.99

Illuminations

Highlights from August's releases

Selected by Martin "Biff" Averre

For a change I thought it might be of interest to give a run down on my most reordered comics. These are the ones that after all our orders have been placed with Diamond we get the most requests to add to people's standing orders. This must be a sign of quality, as it's the comic reader who is driving the following extra sales, which doesn't mean the title is not a 'hot' title either. However, the 'hot' factor is not what drives most of our customers.

1) **Superman/Batman**: this series is selling better now than it did with issue 1. Every month dozens of people add this to their order, request back issues, and, despite the fact that many issues went to second and third prints, we keep selling out. It is so unusual for a series to steadily increase sales that my innate caution has prevented me from ordering more boldly. More fool me. If you want a new series to try, this is our Number One.

2) **Ultimate Fantastic Four**: the reorder activity over this series has been almost as high as for **Superman/Batman**. I guess everyone thought: "Can Brian Michael Bendis do it again? Nah, I don't think so". Well he could and he did. This series has started off at a brilliant pace and can engage the old and the new comic reader on many levels. This is my own personal favourite of the more recent Marvel releases. We still have copies of #1 left, but we've already sold out of #2 and up.

3) **The Flash**: this one may surprise most of you. Every month I have over a dozen late requests for the current or previous half dozen issues. The sales of this series have nudged up 12% over the last year and as Geoff Johns shows no sign of running out of ideas (I couldn't resist the pun) this is one of DC's most consistent titles. Another excellent one to try.

4) **Conan**: the sales of this series have been phenomenal. It is the top selling Dark Horse series and the 25p primer seems to have worked, mainly because the art and script are superb. Many people thought they would try #1, then when they got that issue quickly dropped us a line to add #2 and #3 to their order. My orders for this series are literally 10 times higher than when Marvel produced its sets of miniseries.

5) **The Gift**: this was a surprise to me, but this small press title from Overcast Comics has really caught on. To the company's credit, it over-printed #1 and it was easy, for a few months, to get reorders. Now #1 and #2 are sold out, but we're still getting enquiries for this series. It is about an ancient power that walks the earth and bestows gifts on everyday people bringing them immense power. The story is how they handle this newfound strength. As we keep selling out I cannot give a personal review, but the interest speaks for itself.

6) **Demo**: once again, this is a series I've not read, but every month I get reorder requests and so far the first three issues are still in print. It's a 12-issue series that covers events that echo 'real' life. AiT/PlanetLar has a good reputation for publishing off-beat and thoughtful titles of a high quality. Its trade paperback selection is quite extensive and is worth your money and time, as is this series.

7) **Astonishing X-Men**: this is a series that everyone is buying in spite of themselves. The lush art of John Cassaday and the solid scripting of Joss Whedon has tempted even those long-in-the-tooth X-Men haters to give it a try, but not at first. Initial reaction and orders were quite low, but I anticipated a late surge and ordered 100 extra copies, which to my surprise have all been spoken for, even before the comic hit our shelves and I have reordered another 25. It just proves the selling power of quality creators and an X-title.

With 22 years of comic retail experience as Ace Comics, Biff has also produced his ***Illuminations*** *monthly fanzine for 19 years before moving it to the web.*

Identity Disc 3 (Robert Rodi & John Higgins) Six of Marvel's deadliest villains have been blackmailed into pulling a job. On an apparent suicide mission, the team must break into a heavily guarded, nearly impenetrable A.I.M. terrorist base and retrieve a small disc that can literally shift the balance of power in the world. $2.99

Incredible Hulk 76 (Bruce Jones & Dougie Braithwaite) The secret behind the plot that made the Hulk a fugitive, and the big plans for big green. 48pg $3.50

Iron Fist 6 *(Breathless* 6 of 6; Jim Mullaney & Kevin Lau) The walls between dimensions tremble, ready to fall, while the ancient cult of Chi prepares to exact vengeance on an unsuspecting K'un Lun. $2.99

Iron Man 87 *(The Singularity* 2 of 4; Mark Ricketts & Tony Harris) Some think Tony Stark has lost his battle with the bottle. Others think he can't control his violent temper. Some think he's a homicidal maniac. Even his closest friends are beginning to doubt him. $2.99

Marvel Knights 4 #9 *(Frozen* 2 of 2; Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa & Jim Muniz) As the mercury continues to plummet, Reed and Namor's conflict escalates further, catching Sue in the crossfire. $2.99

Marvel Knights 4 Vol 1: Wolf at the Door (Roberto-Aguirre Sacasa & Steve McNiven; tpbk) The members of comics' first family face bankruptcy! To overcome it, they'll need to call on the humour, determination and family ties that have delivered them from danger up to now. Collects Marvel Knights 4 #1-7. 168pg $16.99

Marvel Knights Spider-Man 5 *(Venomous* 1 of 4; Mark Millar & Frank Cho) Guest-artist Frank Cho blows people's minds, and to blow some things up for Spider-Man in a very unfriendly neighbourhood. $2.99

Punisher 10 *(Kitchen Irish* 4 of 6; Garth Ennis & Leandro Fernandez; *Max Comics)* Frank Castle continues his siege on rival gangs warring in Hell's Kitchen. . $2.99

new **Punisher Max Vol 1: In the Beginning** (Garth Ennis & Lewis LaRosa; tpbk) Frank Castle's old associate Micro is back, and he's after Frank. But first, he's got an offer for Frank that he'd better not refuse. Collects Punisher #1-6. Mature readers. 144pg $14.99

She-Hulk 6 *(The Big Picture* 2 of 2; Dan Slott & Paul Pelletier) She-Hulk must protect her law firm from an all-out assault by The Mad Thinker and an army of supervillains. Will Awesome Andy side with his old master? $2.99

Spectacular Spider-Man 18 (Paul Jenkins & Humberto Ramos) His humanity slipping away from him, a danger to his friends and loved ones, Spidey grapples with the amazing transformation that's taken hold of him. $2.25

Thor: Son of Asgard 7 *(Enchanted* 1 of 3; Akira Yoshida & Greg Tocchini) After their adventures across the wilds of Asgard, it's back to school for Thor, Balder and Sif. but when you're in training to be a warrior, study hall isn't so quiet! . $2.99

Weapon X #27 *(Man and Superman* 2 of 3; Frank Tieri & Tom Mandrake) Sabretooth hits the trail of one of the X-Men's deadliest and most mysterious enemies. $2.99

ON SALE FROM
AUGUST 18

Dark Horse

3x3 Eyes Vol 9 (Yuzo Takada; tpbk) Published for the first time in non-Westernised format, 3x3 Eyes will remain unflopped, be published right-to-left, and the fx will remain un-retouched. It's the new thing! Now – unremastered! 280pg b&w $12.95

Blade of the Immortal Vol 13 (Hiroaki Samura; tpbk) Anotsu Kagehisa, master swordsman and leader of the rogue Itto-ryu dojo, has sheathed his blade for the moment to join in marriage with the daughter of a swordmaster whose dojo is to be brought under Onotsus' dark wing. Collects #81-89 of the ongoing series. Mature. 256pg b&w $17.95

The Chronicles of Conan Vol 5: The Shadow in the Tomb and Other Stories (Roy Thomas & John Buscema; tpbk) Collecting issues #27-33 of Marvel's Conan the Barbarian series, with a view to welcoming him back for an all-new run. 160pg $15.95

The Goon 8 (Eric Powell) Vampires are not what they used to be. In the beginning they were restless spirits who would rise from the grave to leech the life from their still-grieving loved ones. Now one of these ancient succubi has returned, with her heart set on the man they call Goon. $2.99

Grendel: Devil's Reign 4 (Matt Wagner & Tim Sale) In an effort to strike at the Khan, African nationalists kidnap Orion's wife Sherri, who is still recovering from the tragedy of losing a child. $3.50

Trigun Maximum Vol 2 (Yasuhiro Nightow; tpbk) In the first volume of Trigun Maximum, we caught up with Vash and watched him jump back into service for Peace and Love! But now the action really begins. 200pg b&w $9.95

DC Comics

new **Action Hero Archives** Vol 1 (Steve Ditko & various) Gathers some of Ditko's greatest Captain Atom adventures, originally published from 1960-1966 in Space Adventures #33-42 and Captan Atom #78-82. 224pg $49.95

Adventures of Superman 631 (Greg Rucka & Matthew Clark + Nelson) Superman learns that seemingly unrelated events might not be as random as he thought. Could the mastermind behind last issue's hostage situation play a bigger role against the Man of Steel? $2.50

Aquaman 21 *(With the Fishes* 1 of 3; Will Pfeifer & Patrick Gleason + Christian Alamy) Sub Diego faces a new wave of crime as a meta-powered criminal caught in the collapse finds his powers even more formidable in his watery new home. $2.50

one-shot **Astro City Special** (Kurt Busiek & Brent Anderson; *WildStorm)* His name is Supersonic, and he was one of the greatest heroes of the 1960s. Today, though, he's long-retired – but he's the only man who can save Astro City from a rampaging engine of destruction. 40pg $3.95

Batgirl 55 *(War Games* 1.6; Dylan Horrocks & Sean Phillips) Batgirl scours the streets and rooftops in search of a former ally. But when news comes of a gun battle across town, Batgirl must decide between continuing the search and running a gauntlet of gun-toting gangsters to get to her teammates. $2.50

final issue **Batman Adventures** 17 (Ty Templeton & Rick Burchett + Terry Beatty) A terrifying dream sets events in motion as Batman faces his ultimate foe – and it's not The Joker. $2.25

one-shot **Batman: Death and the Maidens** (Greg Ruckam & Klaus Janson; tpbk) Collects the miniseries. A dying Ra's al Ghul has no choice but to beg Batman, his greatest nemesis, for help against a woman who once shared his life, centuries ago. 224pg $19.95

Batman: Gotham Knights 56 *(War Games* 1.4; A.J. Lieberman & Al Barrionuevo + Francis Portella) As gang war rages, Batman and Batgirl must save the innocent and stem the violence. 40pg $2.95

Birds of Prey 72 *(Between Dark and Dawn* 4 of 6; Gail Simone & Ed Benes) Vixen and Huntress fight their way to a faceoff with Sovereign Brusaw, Canary races through Gotham trying to prevent a series of cult-inspired suicides. $2.50

Challengers of the Unknown 3 (Howard Chaykin) Five extraordinary survivors of a not-so-random terrorist attack put the pieces of their giant jigsaw puzzle back together just in time for their faces to be plastered all across the media as the perps! $2.95

one-shot **DC Comics Presents: The Atom** 1 (Dave Gibbons + Mark Waid & Pat Oliffe + Dan Jurgens) The explosive cover of The Atom 10 inspires two stories in this tribute to DC editor Julius Schwartz. $2.50

new **Deicide** Vol 1 (Carlos Portela & Das Pastoras; tpbk) This lushly painted trade paperback features a unique mix of action and humor from the first two chapters of Deicide, as well as the short story *The Lion's Share*, which introduced the earliest incarnation of the Deicide characters. 112pg $14.95

Ex Machina 3 *(State of Emergency* 2 of 4; Brian K. Vaughan & Tony Harris and Tom Feister; *WildStorm)* Former superhero and current New York Mayor Mitchell Hundred must deal with mysterious figure assassinating snowplow drivers. $2.95

Fallen Angel 14 (Peter David & David Lopez + Fernando Blanco) It's a typical evening at the favourite drinking establishment in Bete Noire. Every single cast member comes wandering through Dolf's bar, each caught up in their own problems...not realising they're interrelated. $2.95

Fraction 5 (David Tischman & Timothy Green II) Trent has lured three old friends to a showdown, and now he must depend on Pete, Mike and Ford to survive. $2.50

one-shot **Green Arrow: Archer's Quest** (Brad Meltzerm & Phil Hester + Ande Parks; tpbk) Collecting Green Arrow #16-21 by Brad Meltzer. The Emerald Archer returns from the dead and sets off on an adventure that tests his courage and brings formerly hidden facets of the Green Arrow legend to light. 176pg $14.95

Hawkman 31 (Jimmy Palmiotti + Justin Gray & Ryan Sook + Mick Gray) With the St Roch police force police closing in and Hawkman wanted for murder, the winged heroes race against the clock to rescue jazz singer Domina Paris from the clutches of a sadistic killer who believes he is the reborn soul of St Roch himself. $2.50

H-E-R-O 19 *(Picking up the Pieces* 1 of 4; Will Pfeifer & Dale Eaglesham + Wade von Grawbadger) The heroes have suffered devasting losses, and the villain has fled with the H-device. Now he's building an army of former H-E-R-Os while Robby Reed, the original user, tries to figure out a way to fight a superpowered army – alone. $2.50

Human Target 13 *(Crossing the Border* 2 of 2; Peter Milligan & Javier Pulido; *Vertigo)* The mystery surrounding Mary White sends Chance across the Mexican desert to encounter some harrowing discoveries regarding the US sex trade. $2.95

one-shot **I Am Legion: The Dancing Faun** (Fabien Nury & John Cassaday) *See Close-Up, below.*

new **JSA: Strange Adventures** 1 (of 6; Kevin J. Anderson & Barry Kitson + Gary Erskine) Strange Adventures begins when fumbling Johnny Thunder decides to become a big-time pulp writer by chronicling the adventures of the JSA. 40pg $3.50

Lucifer 53 *(The Wolf Beneath the Tree* 3 of 4; Mike Carey & Peter Gross + Ryan Kelly; *Vertigo)* Elaine, Michael and Lucifer embark on a dangerous quest to save an entire creation – or possibly two. $2.50

new **Manhunter** 1 (Marc Andreyko & Jesús Saiz + Jimmy Palmiotti) Kate Spencer is a top federal prosecutor, one of the best lawyers in LA, and the most driven woman alive. The prosecution of supervillains is her life's work – and the fact that they never go away for good has begun to torment her. $2.95

Outsiders 15 (Judd Winick & Tom Raney) Things get ugly when team-leader Nightwing puts the Outsiders in serious danger to save the day. . $2.50

Plastic Man 9 *(Continuity Bandit* 2 of 2; Kyle Baker & Baker) Plastic Man waves through a confusing muddle of interlocking storylines and wildly varying art styles to track down a villain who's messing with Plas' life and the entire DCU. $2.95

Powerpuff Girls 53 (Ian Boothby & Phil Moy) There's a new Professor in town, and his special spray stops crime. Mmm. $2.25

Robin 129 *(War Games* 1.5; Bill Willingham & Giuseppe Camuncoli + Lorenzo Ruggiero) The Odessa Mob has put a contract out on Henry Aquista's daughter Darla, but Scarface wants a piece of the action, too. $2.25

new **Superman Adventures Vol 1: Up, Up And Away!** (Mark Millar & Aluir Amancio + Terry Austin; tpbk) This volume reprints Superman Adventures #16, #19, and #22-24, with Brainiac, the Parasite, Lex Luthor, Mr Mxyzptlk, Bizarro, Lobo, and Darkseid. 112pg $6.95

Superman Adventures Vol 2: The Never-Ending Battle (Mark Millar & Aluir Amancio + Terry Austin; tpbk) Collectes Superman Adventures #25-29, turning up the heat with stories featuring Brainiac, Lex Luthor, the Parasite, Lobo, Bizarro and more. 112pg $6.95

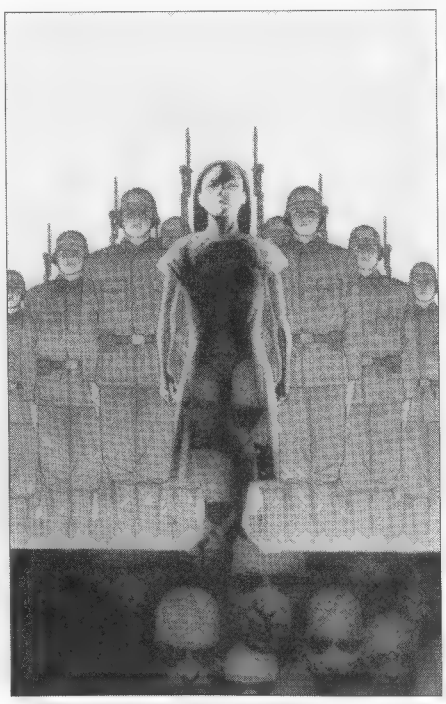
Superman/Batman 13 (Jeph Loeb & Michael Turner) Batman, Superman and Wonder Woman battle Darkseid. Kara Zor-El has all the makings of a Supergirl, but is that who she really is? Alternate cover. $2.95

Terra Obscura Vol 2 #1 (Alan Moore + Peter Hogan & Yanick Paquette + Karl Story; *America's Best Comics)* The heroes have finally adjusted to the society that spent 30-years without them...and more importantly, society has acclimated to having science heroes again! .. $2.95

Touch 5 (John Francis Moore & Wes Craig + Prentis Rollins) Cooper is in trouble, trying to help the out-of-control, superpowered daughter of a billionaire. When his latest client causes a deadly accident. Cooper has a choice: trust a total stranger with his secret and empower them to save him, or die a lonely death. $2.50

new **We3** #1 (Grant Morrison & Frank Quitely; *Vertigo)* The Incredible Journey meets The Terminator in We3 – a heartbreaking animal adventure like no other. They're the ultimate cyborg assassins. The government has spent millions to fuse the firepower of a battalion with the nervous systems of a dog named Bandit,

close-up



I Am Legion: The Dancing Faun

DC Comics

Writer: Fabien Nury

Artist: John Cassaday

December, 1942. As WWII rages, two supernatural entities pursue their own relentless combat. It's a conflict that involves ideologies as much as men, with the course of the war itself at stake. Amidst this chaos, the Nazis pursue a top secret project, codenamed Legion, centring on a Romanian girl with apparent supernatural talents. 64pg $6.95

ON SALE AUGUST 18

a cat named Tinker, and a rabbit named Pirate. 40pg $2.95

Marvel

Cable/Deadpool 6 *(If Looks Could Kill* 6 of 6; Fabian Nicieza & Patrick Zircher) Deadpool has a cold, hard stare on a power-hungry Cable, but Cable has his sights set on much bigger game. $2.99

Daredevil 63 *(The Widow* 3 of 4; Brian Michael Bendis & Alex Maleev) With the Black Widow back in Matt Murdock's life, Daredevil finds he now has two targets on his head. $2.99

Exiles 51 *(The Big M* 1 of 2; Tony Bedard & Mizuki Sakakibara) There's someone very familiar leading the Brotherhood, someone who very well could put an end to the Exiles once and for all. $2.99

Fantastic Four 517 *(Fourtitude* 1 of 3; Mark Waid & Mike Wieringo) With the Avengers in disarray, New York reluctantly turns to the disenfranchised Fantastic Four, the only heroes in town, to save them—but where to even start? $2.99

Guardians 3 (Marc Sumerak & Casey Jones) Just when they thought their lives were finally getting easier, the Guardians must reunite to face an otherworldly threat from their past. $2.99

new **Invaders** 1 *(To End All Wars* 1 of 3; Allan Jacobsen & C. P. Smith) Jim Hammond, the original Human Torch, returns to lead the Invaders on a covert mission to stop a mysterious terrorist cell from resurrecting the monstrous evil slumbering in the depths of the Arabian Sea. $2.99

Loki 3 (Rob Rodi & Esad Ribic) In this story, Loki's insatiable lust for power, his conflicted sentiments toward Sif, his antipathy toward Balder, and the deep-seated feelings of longing and resentment toward his older brother, Thor, and uncaring all-father, Odin, will take on new meaning. ..... $3.50.

Man-Thing 2 (Hans Rodionoff & Kyle Hotz) Sinister events continue to mount in the creepy town of Bywater, Louisiana, where an outsider has arrived to uncover the horrifying truth of what lurks in the swamp. $2.99

Marvel Age Spider-Man 10 (various) Doc Ock has escaped from prison with a plan to re-establish himself in the scientific community, and it's a battle on the high seas as Spider-Man tries to rescue a kidnapped Betty Brant and bring his nemesis to justice. $2.25

Mary Jane 3 (Sean McKeever & Takeshi Miyazawa) When some classmates play a prank on Mary Jane, good guy Flash Thompson goes on the offensive! $2.25

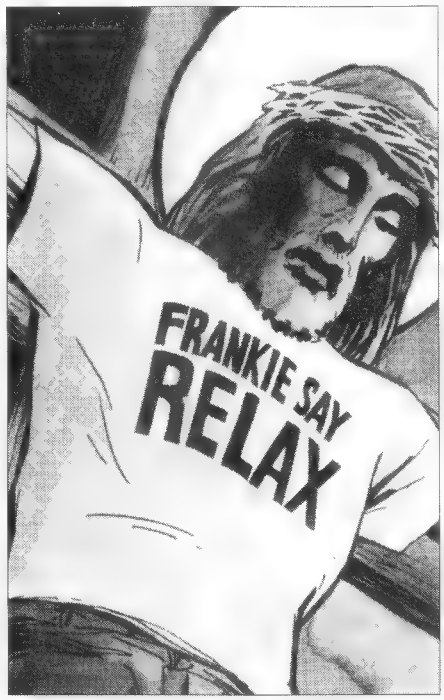
New X-Men 4 *(Choosing Sides* 4 of 6; Nunzio DeFilippis + Christina Weir & Randy Green) As the New Mutants and the Hellions battle for bragging rights on Field Day, a long shadow from one of their pasts falls over the Xavier Institute. $2.99

Rogue 2 (Rob Rodi & Cliff Richards) Rogue has returned to her childhood home, and looking for answers about her family only turns up more questions! $2.99

Runaways 18 (Brian Vaughan & Adrian Alphona) All of your questions are answered. But this isn't the end of our heroes. $2.99

Ultimate Spider-Man 64 *(Carnage* 5 of 6; Brian Michael Bendis & Mark Bagley) The big showdown between Spider-Man and Carnage. And what is that Ben Reilly up to? $2.25

Venom Vol 2: Run (Daniel Way & Paco Medina + Francisco Herrera; tpbk) On the loose from an Arctic research facility and still being pursued by a mysterious alien agent, the deadly Venom is headed toward civilisation. Collects Venom #6-13. 192pg . $19.99



close-up

The Chosen

Dark Horse Comics

Writer: Mark Millar

Artist: Peter Gross

Imagine you're 12 years old and suddenly discover that you're the returned Jesus Christ. What do you do, what does your family do, and how does it affect you, knowing that you're destined to grow up and take part in a conflict that people have been waiting almost 2,000 years for? Mature readers. 80pg $9.95

ON SALE AUGUST 25

Wolverine 18 *(Return of the Native* 6 of 7; Greg Rucka & Darick Robertson) Sabretooth, Logan and the mysterious Native all converge. ..... $2.25.

Wolverine: The End 5 (Paul Jenkins & Claudio Castellini) The last Wolverine story nears its conclusion. Get the full story of Wolverine's life! $2.99

one-shot **X-Force: Big Guns** (Fabian Nicieza + Rob Liefeld & various; tpbk) Cable and the former New Mutants take the fight to the Juggernaut, the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, Stryfe and more. Collects X-Force #1-4 and Spider-Man #16. 136pg $15.99

X-Men 160 *(Day of the Atom* 4 of 4; Chuck Austen & Salvador Larroca) The return of... Xorn! $2.25

one-shot **X-Men: Days of Future Past** (Chris Claremont & John Byrne; tpbk) Re-live the legendary first journey into the dystopian future of 2013 – where Sentinels stalk the Earth, and the X-Men are humanity's only hope, until they die! Collects Uncanny X-Men #138-143 and Annual #4. 184pg $19.99

new **X-Men: The End Book One: Dreamers & Demons** 1 (Chris Claremont & Sean Chen) It's the epic finale to the story of the Children of the Atom in a trilogy. $2.99

ON SALE FROM

AUGUST 25

Dark Horse

one-shot **B.P.R.D.: The Soul of Venice and Other Stories** (Mike Mignola & Michal Avon Oeming + Guy Davis; tpbk) Collection of 2003's Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense one-shots. 128pg $17.95

one-shot **The Chosen** (Mark Millar & Peter Gross; tpbk) *See Close-Up, above.*

Conan 7 (Kurt Busiek & Cary Nord + Thomas Yeates) Conan leads a rebellion against the slave masters of Hyperborea – but can even he face the mightiest sorcerers of the oldest, most corrupt civilisation of the ancient world? $2.99

one-shot **Crush** (Jason Hall & Sean Murphy; tpbk) On the day of her 18th birthday Elizabeth Mason undergoes a strange metamorphosis which, for reasons unknown, causes her to transform into the monster called Crush. 96pg $12.95

Last Train to Deadsville: A Cal Mcdonald Mystery 4 (of 4; Steve Niles & Kelley Jones) Cal's hands are full even before he gets to the point of dealing with an entire Southern California town that just happens to be possessed by the nastiest spirit ever. $2.99

Lone Wolf 2100 Vol 3 (Mike Kennedy & Francisco Ruiz Velasco; tpbk) A virus incubating in young Daisy Ogami's blood may hold the key to saving the world – or destroying it. Mature. 104pg $12.95

one-shot **Shockrockets: We Have Ignition** (Kurt Busiek & various; tpbk) It's 2071AD and, in the wake of a devastating alien war, Earth is protected by the Shockrockets – an unbeatable squadron of hi-tech aerial fighter craft, built from a fusion of captured alien technology and the best Earth has to offer. 160pg $14.95

Star Wars: Republic 68 (John Ostrander & Jan Duursema + Dan Parsons) Pursuing the lost plans for a Separatist secret weapon, Jedi Aayla Secura has a showdown with her former Master and friend turned dark Jedi – Quinlan Vos. $2.99

Super Manga Blast! 44 (various) Featuring two episodes of Makoto Kobayashi's playful, cat-centric strip, *What's Michael?*, featuring conniving, domestic felines at their troublesome best. 128pg b&w $5.99

Usagi Yojimbo 78 (Stan Sakai) A cantankerous old woman hires the reluctant samurai to help her run away from home – with all of her valuables. 24pg b&w $2.99

DC Comics

The Authority: More Kev 3 (Garth Ennis & Glenn Fabry; *WildStorm)* Saving the world is an everyday occurrence for the Authority...but not for Kev Hawkins. The odds of his surviving this mission are pretty low, so he enlists his S.A.S mates to watch his back. $2.95

Batman 631 *(War Games* 1.8; Bill Willingham & Kinsun + Nathan Massengill) The ultimate gang war has engulfed Gotham City, and it's about to strike close to home for one member of the Batman family. $2.25

Caper 11 (Judd Winick & Tom Fowler) Lou and Richie are having a hell of a time. They have a severed hand in a cooler; they're being chased by well-dressed men with uzis; a squad of porn stars on motorcycles want to chat with them; and their only allies are a legion of drag queens. $2.95

Cartoon Cartoons 31 (various) The Kids Next Door face down a ferocious beast, Dexter turns real life into TV time, and the Eds discover gold in their backyard. $2.25

Catwoman 34 *(War Games* 1.7; Ed Brubaker & Paul Gulacy + Jimmy Palmiotti) The battle to control Gotham spills into the East End when Mr Freeze targets the Lucky Hand Triad. ... $2.50

one-shot **DC Comics Presents: Justice League of America** 1 (various) Two tales, inspired by the cover to Justice League of America 53. ..... $2.59

Doom Patrol 3 (John Byrne & Byrne + Doug Hazlewood) Mysterious creatures from before the dawn of time draw the Doom Patrol to the Antarctic, where the team is tested for the first time! .. $2.50

Elfquest: The Grand Quest Vol 4 (Richard Pini + Wendy Pini & Wendy Pini; tpbk) The elves continue their struggle deep within Blue Mountain and learn more about their heritage. 192pg b&w . $9.95

The Flash 213 (Geoff Johns & Howard Porter + Livesay) Wally West is about to learn that having a secret identity isn't all it's cracked up to be when he's accused of a crime by Keystone Police... $2.25

Green Lantern 180 *(Homecoming?* 5 of 6; Ron Marz & Luke Ross + Rodney Ramos) Kyle Rayner heads for the one place he knows he'll be welcomed: home. But he's soon confronted by the villain who has stalked him since his return to Earth—and this time only one of them will walk away. $2.25

one-shot **Green Lantern: Passing the Torch** (Judd Winick & Dale Eaglesham + Rodney Ramos; tpbk) With Jade at his side, Kyle Rayner, Green Lantern of Earth, takes to stars, where he encounters action and intrigue on Oa, home planet of the Guardians of the Universe. Collects Green Lantern #156 and #158-161. 128pg $12.95

Hellblazer 199 *(Stations of the Cross* 3 of 3; Mike Carey & Marcelo Frusin; *Vertigo)* When all intrigues are laid bare and all masks thrown aside, John must look to one old enemy to save him from another. $2.75

one-shot **The Hollow Grounds** (Luc Schuiten & Francois Schuiten; tpbk) Collects all three books in Francois Schuiten's The Hollow Grounds trilogy. The chapters included are *Carapaces, Zara* and *Nogegon*. 192pg $19.95

JLA 104 (Chuck Austen & Ron Garney) "The Pain of the Gods" is inflicted on J'Onn J'Onzz, the Martian Manhunter. MM feels more human than alien when he finds himself involved in a classic detective case with shades of noir. How involved in his human life should he become? $2.25

Kinetic 6 (Kelley Puckett & Warren Pleece) Tom has an incredible superpower, but that doesn't make things better with his mum, help him get a date, or change the fact that he's a loser. $2.50

The Legion 38 *(For No Better Reason* 4 of 4; Gail Simone & Dan Jurgens + Andy Smith) Devil, Arrow, Canary and Lantern have sworn to destroy the Legion on its own turf, and with the Legion's big guns out of the picture, it looks like they just might do it. $2.50

The Losers 15 (Andy Diggle & Ale Garza; *Vertigo)* The deadly Afghan warrior Aisha sheds light on her personal history as she returns to the Middle East to sever ties to her past once and for all. .. $2.95

Promethea 31 (Alan Moore & J.H. Williams III + Mick Gray; *America's Best Comics)* What do you do the day after the world ends? This is it, the end of the story – the one that answers all the questions. $2.95

Richard Dragon 4 (Chuck Dixon & Scott McDaniel + Andy Owens) The Circle of Six aims to take over the drug trade in the Motor City. Can Dragon and Bronze Tiger thwart their plans, even if it means a confrontation with Lady Shiva? $2.50

Sleeper Season Two 3 (Ed Brubaker & Sean Philips; *WildStorm)* Lynch tries to gain back Holden's trust by leading him to a woman who knows many of Tao's secrets.. ..... $2.95

Superman 208 *(For Tomorrow* 5 of 12; Brian Azzarello & Jim Lee + Scott Williams) Just when the Man of Steel thought he could catch his breath, he comes face-to-face with new obstacles – namely, his allies in the JLA. $2.50

Teen Titans Go! 10 (J. Torres & Todd Nauck + Lary Stucker) A vile, muck-covered creature from the depths of the ocean is menacing Jump City. Could teen hearthrob Aqualad be behind it? ... $2.25

Weird Secret Origins 80-Page Giant (various) Includes the secret origins of Dr Fate (More Fun Comics #55), Enchantress (Strange Adventures #187), Animal Man (Strange Adventures #180), Congorilla (Action Comics #247), El Diablo (All-Star Western #3), Bizarro (World's Finest Comics #181), and The Spectre (More Fun Comics #52-53). 80pg $5.95

The Witching 3 (Jonathan Vankin & Leigh Gallagher + Ron Randall; *Vertigo)* It's mayhem in the mosh pit when Osiris and Kara headline a huge outdoor concert. $2.95

Wonder Woman 207 (Greg Rucka & Drew Johnson + Ray Snyder) Medousa has returned in need of an ally – will Veronica Cale be able to help her destroy their common foe? $2.25

Marvel

Amazing Fantasy 3 (Fiona Avery & Mark Brooks) Marvel's newest heroine

confronts the tall, dark, and mysterious stranger who's been shadowing her every move. $2.99

Amazing Spider-Man 511 (J. Michael Straczynski & Mike Deodato) The big Spider-Man event continues to shake the wall-crawler's world. $2.25

Amazing Spider-Man Vol 7: The Book of Ezekiel (J. Michael Straczynski + Fiona Avery & John Romita Jr.; tpbk) Peter delves further into the mysterious totemic origin of his powers when the enigmatic Ezekiel returns. Collects Amazing Spider-Man #503-508. 144pg $12.99

Astonishing X-Men 4 *(Gifted* 4 of 6; Joss Whedon & John Cassaday) The X-Men storm the Benetech labs to confront Ord—and find the shocking secret behind the new cure. $2.99

Avengers 501 *(Avengers Disassembled* 2 of 4; Brian Michael Bendis & David Finch) The worst day in Avengers history continues, as the team tries to deal with the shocking tragedy around them. $2.25

Captain America Vol 5: Homeland (Robert Morales & Chris Bachalo; tpbk) In a story ripped from today's headlines, the US government taps Cap to embark on what might be his most life-changing mission ever – to serve on a military tribunal being held for a foreign antiwar activist charged with supporting terrorist actions. Collects Captain America #21-28. 192pg $19.99

Excalibur 4 *(Forging the Sword* 4 of 4; Chris Claremont & Aaron Lopresti) Professor X and his ragtag team find their first major test as they're faced with an attack from all sides, but some unlikely allies wait in the wings as well! .. $2.99

Incredible Hulk 75 (Bruce Jones & Darick Robertson) When Banner awakens in a post-apocalyptic future, his problems are just beginning. The mastermind behind the plot that made him a fugitive has big plans for the Hulk. 48pg .. $3.50

Marvel Masterworks: Fantastic Four Vol 7 (Stan Lee & Jack Kirby) The First Family of Super Heroes ushers in a new era of Marvel Masterworks with the addition of Fantastic Four Vol 7 to the Masterworks Library. Collecting Fantastic Four (Vol 1) #61-71 and Annual #5. 304pg $49.99

Mystique 18 *(Unnatural* 5 of 5; Sean McKeever & Manuel Garcia) Mystique and Shortpack's relationship continues to strain as they work to take down DermaFree and rescue the mutant guinea pigs from execution. $2.99

Powerless 3 (Matt Chernis & Michael Gaydos + Peter Johnson) Logan. Peter Parker. Matt Murdock. What if these icons were left powerless? Would their destinies change? $2.99

Secret War 3 (Brian Michael Bendis & Gabriele Dell'Otto) The mystery of the Secret War is casting a shadow across the entire Marvel Universe as every hero with a public identity is attacked by groups of high-tech villains. 48pg $3.99

Silver Surfer 12 (Stacy Weiss & Lan Medina) The Silver Surfer's children sabotage his mission, with catastrophic consequences for the Earth. $2.99

Spectacular Spider-Man Vol 3: Here There Be Monsters (Paul Jenkins & Damion Scott + Paolo Rivera; tpbk) He has struggled for years to control the coiled reptile that dwells deep within his heart. Now, at the end of his rope, one bad day will change Dr Curt Connors' life forever. Collects Spectacular Spider-Man #11-13, plus Spectacular Spider-Man #14. 112pg $10.99

new **Ultimate Elektra** 1 *(Devil's Due* 1 of 5; Mike Carey & Salvador Larroca) Matt Murdock – desperate to see Elektra Natchios again – makes an attempt to contact this mysterious young woman, putting himself squarely in the crosshairs of the biggest crime boss in New York City. $2.25

Ultimate Fantastic Four 10 *(Doom* 4 of 6; Warren Ellis & Stuart Immonen) The insane Victor Van Damme has struck at the Baxter Building from thousands of miles away – but the US Army is preventing the Fantastic Four from responding. $2.25

Venom 18 *(Twist* 5 of 5; Daniel Way & Skottie Young) Spider-Man and the Fantastic Four must stop the two Venom symbiotes from destroying the earth. $2.99

Venom vs Carnage 2 (Peter Milligan & Clayton Crain) Carnage just had a baby. Guest-starring Black Cat. $2.99

X-Statix 26 (Peter Milligan & Michael Allred) Zip up the bodybags in this extra-special, last issue of the title formerly known as X-Force. $2.99

RELEASED AND ON SALE IN

AUGUST

Abstract Studio

Strangers in Paradise Vol 2 #68 (Terry Moore) Freddie goes to the city morgue in search of a body, and he finds one – a sexy morgue attendant. 24pg b&w $2.95

Amaze Ink/ Slave Labor

new **15 Minutes** 1 (Bob Elinskas & David Hedgecock + Mike Kelleher) Everybody gets their 15 minutes of fame. What would you do if the postman delivered you the world's most powerful weapon by accident? 24pg $3.95

new **Bill & Ted** 1 (of 2; Evan Dorkin; tpbk) Contains the Bogus Journey movie adaptation and issues #1-4, featuring zombies, aliens, assassins, some dude named Satan, and most non-non-heinous of all – record industry executives! 168pg $13.95

Hsu & Chan 7 (Norm Scott) Do the brothers Tanaka have the fortitude to overcome these new perils, or will they just luck out of it like usual? 24pg $2.95

Outlook: Grim 6 (Black Olive) Wren is stuck in the land of goblins and beasties in search of friends that desperately need rescuing. Dark secrets are unlocked and the mystery of Wrens haunting is revealed. Will she return to the living and kick the ghoulies back to where they came from, or will the dead have the last laugh? 24pg $2.95

Patty Cake Vol 2 #12 (Scott Roberts) Patty and the kids go down to the woods for a day of adventure, but it's all spoiled when toddler Duncan McBee insists on tagging along, and the day ends in an emergency rescue. 48pg $4.95

new **X-Ray Comics Vol 1 Filth** (Landry Walker & Eric Jones + Rustan Crade) Explores the fun world of drug abuse, music, Jesus, cross-dressing and the usual perils of love an alcohol. 144pg $14.95

Antarctic Press

Angels 750 #4 (Ted Nomura) The Angels join a motorcycle racing team, causing problems with their relationships. $2.99

new **Dictators: Saddam Hussein** 1 (Ted Nomura) Terrorism was just the beginning for the young Saddam. Follow the story of the emerging Iraqi leader. $3.95

Gold Digger 56 (Fred Perry) Gina and Brianna return to Jade to research Dragon history, stopping first at Jade's Magic Observatory to find Tark and Mesha. $2.99

one-shot **Gold Digger Swimsuit: End of Summer Special 2004** (various) Females and no clothes. 48pg b&w $4.50

I Hunt Monsters 6 (Rod Espinosa & Craig Babiar) William Warlock and his partners pose as circus performers in Midwest America to hunt out a werewolf or two. $2.99

Luftwaffe: 1946 Pocket Manga Vol 4 (Ted Nomura & Ben Dunn; tpbk) Condorcet must decide whether to kill Hitler and change history or save himself. 120pg b&w $9.99

Mangazine 58 (various) Long running American manga compilation, inluding *Ninja High School, Families of Altered Wars, Gold Digger* and more. 150pg $9.99

Neotopia 4 #1 (Rod Espinosa) Defeated completely, Kaizler orders a retreat, but grabs an injured Nalyn as he makes his escape. $2.99

Ninja High School 120 (Katie Bair) Eighteen years ago, the inseparable Li brothers came to Hawaii for a better life. Instead they found a woman who drove them apart. b&w $2.99

Quagmire USA 4 (Ben Dunn) Technology and Ninja skills, plus some much needed teamwork training finally let the Quagmire crew infiltrate their enemy's stronghold. b&w $2.99

Archie

Archie 551 (Barbara Slate & Stan Goldberg) After reading some psychology books, Jughead feels qualified to answer Archie's eternal question: should he choose Betty or Veronica? $2.19

Archie & Friends 85 (Paul Castiglia + Barbara Jarvie & Fernando Ruiz) When a magician's props do a disappearing act, Archie, Betty and Veronica must use some investigative hocus pocus to solve the magical mystery. $2.19

Betty & Veronica Spectacular 67 (Dan Parent) Betty and Veronica are flying high when they take trapeze lessons and end up the main attraction in the local circus. $2.19

Jughead 160 (Craig Boldman & Rex Lindsey) When the Lodges host a murder mystery dinner party, they enlist Jughead to play the victim. $2.19

Sabrina the Teenage Witch 60 (Tania del Rio) Shinji decides he better make a move before Sabrina gets too serious with Harvey, so he asks Sabrina out on their first official date. $2.19

Sonic the Hedgehog 140 *(The Return to Angel Island* 3 of 4; Ken Penders & Steven Butler + Jim Amash) The struggle to free Angel Island from the Evil Dr Robotnik and protect the Master Emerald continues! $2.19

Veronica 155 (Dan Parent) Veronica invites Betty, Nancy and Brigitte over for a sleepover at posh Lodge Mansion, but things go from dreamy to dicey as soon as you can say Cheryl Blossom! $2.19

Avatar Press

Joe R Lansdale's By Bizarre Hands 4 (Joe R Lansdale & Dheeraj Verma) Horror *Tight Little Stitches In A Dead Man's Back* splits open in sequential form with art by Indian superstar Dheeraj Verma. Mature readers. b&w ... $3.50

one-shot **Robocop: Killing Machine Special** 1 (Steven Grant & Anderson Ricardo) A bored rich kid gets his kicks hacking into what's left of the Detroit grid, triggering random power failures and screwing up transit, causing various tensions that Murphy and Lewis have to cope with to maintain public order. 16pg $2.99

new **Stargate SG-1: Fall of Rome** 1 (of 3; James Anthony & Jorge Correa) Following ancient clues found on a remote world, the SG-1 team travels to a Goa'uld graveyard that has a deadly hidden secret. $3.99

Yuggoth Creatures 2 (Antony Johnston & various) The second volume of the Professor's memoirs take him on a roller coaster ride through the Lovecraft Mythos, as he pieces together the secret history of the universe, and mankind's approaching doom! Mature readers. 40pg b&w $3.99

Warren Ellis' Strange Killings: Necromancer 5 (of 6; Warren Ellis & Mike Wolfer) Trapped with an innocent reporter in the jungles of the Philippines, Gravel has figured out the secret of the island and why the British government wants it kept hidden from the rest of the world. Mature readers. b&w $3.50

Bongo Comics

Bart Simpson 19 (Bates & DiGerolamo + Constanza) What happens when Bart is nowehere to be found? What happens to Martin? To Milhouse? Power void! $2.99

Simpsons Comics 97 (Boothby & Ortiz) Ned Flanders goes on a road trip of self-discovery, and while he's away, Cletus and his kinfolk set up stall in his house. $2.99

Cartoon Books

one-shot **Bone: The One Volume Edition** (Jeff Smith) *See Close-Up, below.*

Claypool

Deadbeats 67 (various) Despite Kirby's sacrifice, the destruction of all that is, was, and ever shall be looms over both the living and the undead of Fear City. b&w $2.50

new **Deadbeats** 1 (various; tpbk) Five fearsome newcomers arrive in Fear City, and their first outreach is to murder four teenagers on the beach. 160pg b&w $12.95

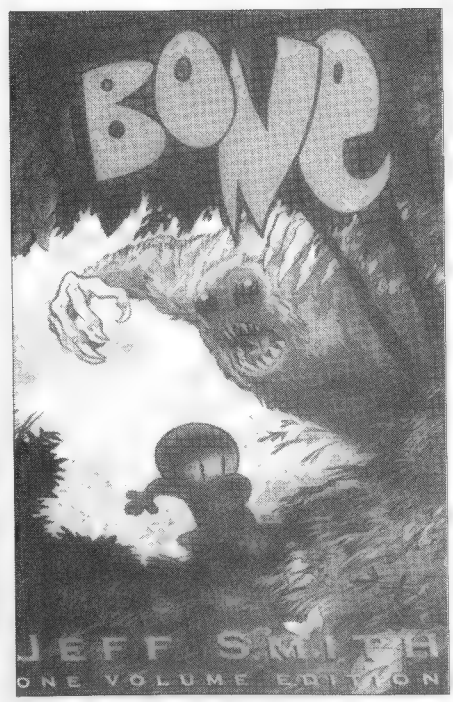
Deadbeats 2 (various; tpbk) Meet Dodger, Martine, Colleen, Mickey, and their so-called leader Southie, in this repackaging of the climax of the seminal Deadbeats epic. 160pg b&w ... $12.95

Elvira 136 (various) Elvira's raising public-TV funds is usually fun, but not when the demon Ka'ashkow is summoned and everyone has to give till it hurts. b&w $2.50

Elvira Mistress of the Dark 2 (various; tpbk) Includes *The Children of the Night, What Crummy TV Shows They Make*, in which Kurt Busiek and Neil Vokes introduce Dracula into the Claypool universe. 152pg b&w $12.95

Soulsearchers & Company 2 (various; tpbk) Showcases the lives of a motley group of ghostbusters in a city that's become synonymous with paranormal overactivity, the small Connecticut township now nicknamed Fear City. b&w 152pg $12.95

close-up



Bone: The One Volume Edition

Cartoon Books

Writer/Artist: Jeff Smith

BOOF. The complete 1300-page epic adventure, from start to finish, in one deluxe paperback. Three modern cartoon cousins get lost in a pre-technological valley, and spend a year there, making new friends and out-running dangerous enemies. They con local people. They learn about sacrifice and hardship. They discover their own true natures. 1300pg b&w $39.95

ON SALE AUGUST

Soulsearchers & Company (various; tpbk) A cadre of killer marionettes target kids'-show hosts. Plus many other stories. b&w 152pg $12.95

DreamWave

Transformers Armada 14 (Simon Furman & Don Figueroa + Elaine To) The walls between realities are starting to crumble, and from beyond come agents of darkness, all-too familiar faces bent on destruction and mayhem. $2.95

Necrowar 2 (Simon Furman &Adi Granov + Linda Bergkvist) Aboard the Tal starship, the Ytar, five casualties of war awake to a new and drastically altered reality. $2.95

Transformers: Generation One Vol 2 #5 (Brad Mick & Pat Lee + Rob Armstrong) Prime and his newly found allies prepare for their final strike against Shockwave's citadel in Iacon. Variant cover. $2.95

Transformers: More Than Meets the Eye 5 (of 8; Adam Patyk & various) Grim profile information on one of the Decepticons' greatest and coldest villains, the mighty Shockwave. 64pg $5.25

new **Transformers/G.I. Joe** 1 (John Ney Rieber & Jae Lee + June Chung) Are even the Joes tough enough to take down an evil empire when it enlists the aid of a merciless army of alien war machines known as the Decepticons? Variant cover. $2.95

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 3 (Peter David & LeSean + Erik Sander) Mad scientist supreme Baxter Stockman lets his mechanical munchers chow down on New York City's finest bank vaults. $2.95

Fantagraphics

Blab Vol 15 (ed Monte Beauchamp) Annual coffee table showcase of fine art, illustration and comix. Includes Sue Coe's look at the legendary *Bird-Flu*. 120pg $19.95

Comics Journal 262 (various) Revamped format for the Journal. Includes pre-election coverage, interviewing Steve Bell and Steve Brodner. Mature readers. 192pg $9.95

one-shot **Fred the Clown** (Roger Langridge) Fred has an eye for the ladies, but the only part of themselves they're willing to share with him is a carefully placed kneecap. 192pg b&w $16.95

one-shot **Locas: A Love & Rockets Book** (Jaime Hernandez) *See Close-Up, above.* 780pg b&w $49.95

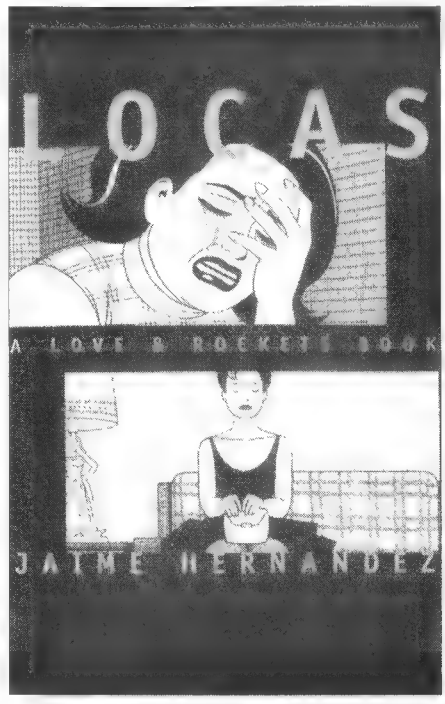
Love & Rockets Vol 2 #11 (Los Bros Hernandez) Ray has a sinking feeling in his gut and he doesn't know what it is. Could it be his best friend Doyle's homosexuality? Mature. b&w ... $4.50

new **Worn Tuff Elbow** 1 (Marc Bell) This debut issue includes the first instalment of *Wilder Hobson's Theatre Absurd-o*, with such characters as Monsieur Moustache, Miss Polly, Mr Socks, Bingo Bango Man, and Wilder Hobson. Mature. 40pg b&w $4.95

Image

one-shot **The Art of Greg Horn** (Greg Horn) Collects many renowned Greg pieces. Included are industry pieces, and Marvel work, plus some bits and bobs from gaming promo. 144pg $39.95

Casefiles: Sam & Twitch 16 (Marc Andreyko & Andy Lee) The floors of a Chinatown temple run red with blood, and Sam and Twitch get caught in the crossfire. b&w $2.50



close-up

Locas: A Love & Rockets Book

Fantagraphics Books

Writer/Artist: Jaime Hernandez

Spanning a quarter of a century, here we have the tale of bisexual Maggie Chascarrillo, a Mexican-American woman attempting to define herself. Her story starts in the early 1980s Southern California rock scene, in excesses of glitter rock, punk and new wave. She evolves from a punk into a mature woman, encountering cruelties large and small. Mature readers. 780pg $49.95

ON SALE AUGUST

The Darkness 14 (Frank Tieri & J.J. Kirby; *Top Cow*) Don Alberto is dead, the victim of Darkness-bearer Jacki Estacado. But when the Don's son tries to take over the mob *and* the Don mysteriously rises from the dead, Jackie is caught in the middle. $2.99

Deep Sleeper 3 (of 4; Phil Hester & Mike Huddleston) Cole Gibson's exploration of the astral realm takes a terrifying turn as he loses his body to and agent of Ramman. b&w $2.95

new **Forsaken** 1 (Carmen Treffiletti & Kristian Donaldson) With terrorist attacks carried out by the radical isolationists and a race war at the gates, the Bi-World Security Council is losing its grip. $2.95

Frankenstein Mobster 5 (Mark Wheatley) Tonight Matthew, the Frankenstein Mobster will escape from the police, kidnap the mayor and engage in wanton property damage. Bimonthly. $2.95

The Gray Area 3 (of 3; Glen Brunswick & John Romita Jr + Klaus Janson) A terrible evil escapes from the depths of the Dark Cloud, and Chance must return to Earth to destroy it. 48pg $5.95

new **Humankind** 1 (Tony Daniel & Daniel + Kevin Conrad; *Top Cow*) Detective Alia Sparrow leads the Human Crimes Bureau on the planet Thera, a planet that steals its culture and patterns itself after Earth. $2.99

Invincible 16 (Robert Kirkman & Ryan Ottley) The Immortal is back. Seemingly dead at the end of issue #7, he was brought back to life by the Maulers. $2.95

Invincible Vol 3: Perfect Stranger (Robert Kirkman & Ryan Ottley; tpbk) The Guardians of the Globe are dead. Unknowingly, Invincible is at the centre of the most dramatic event ever, ever. Ever. 136pg $12.95

Jack Staff Vol 2: Soldiers (Paul Grist; tpbk) Reveals the full story behind Jack Staff's fight with Hurricane, 20 years ago. 160pg $15.95

one-shot **Magdalena/ Vampirella** 1 (Robert Kirkman & Francis Manapul; *Top Cow*) Both the Magdalena and Vampirella are after the same prize – an ancient mystical amulet. Catfight! Variant cover. $2.99

Masters of the Universe Vol 3 #7 (Val Staples & Leanne Shaw) In a reflection on the past, Stratos remembers when the war to secure the Egg of Avion plagued the land. ... $2.95

Noble Causes 2 (Jay Faerber & Fran Bueno) Doc's plan to help Krennick clear his name results in Krennick having to make a terrible choice. $3.50

NYC Mech 5 (Miles Gunter & Ivan Brandon) Raised in advertising, Eric lives to make adverts that will batter your wallet into submission. Now he is in Manhattan, with his sights on Valeria and her brother Marco. $2.95

PvP 10 (Scott Kurtz) A freak accident leaves Skull the Troll with a hyper-intelligent brain. b&w $2.95

Savage Dragon: God War 2 (of 3; Robert Kirkman & Mark Englert) An old god has been awoken and is ravaging the Earth. It's up to Dragon and Herakles to save the day. $2.95

one-shot **Six** (Michael Avon Oeming + Dan Berman & Ethan Beavers + Michael Avon Oeming; graphic novel) A bloody puzzle begins to piece itself together, and could unleash untold evil on the world. 56pg b&w $5.95

Small Gods 3 (Jason Rand & Juan E. Ferreyra) Precog detective Owen Young must make an impossible choice: Sacrifice himself and his friends or forfeit his convictions as a police officer. b&w $2.95

Spawn 149 (Brian Holguin + Todd McFarlane & Angel Medina + Danny Miki) Pictures of an ancient and bloody puzzle are falling into place, and they threaten to unleash an unstoppable power. $2.50

Strykeforce 5 (of 5; Jay Faerber & Tyler Kirkham + Mario Alquiza; *Top Cow*) The truth about Tommy Jenkins has been revealed – and it just might kill the Strykeforce $2.99

Superpatriot: War on Terror 2 (of 4; Robert Kirkman & E.J. Su) Baron Blitzkrieg is back, and his goal is nothing less than taking over the USA. He can have it. $2.95

new **Sylvia Faust** 1 (Jason Henderson & Greg Scott) A 1970s action star is supposed to host a three-movie kung-fu marathon at the Apocalypse, but Tim just can't seem to get the guy sober. $2.95

one-shot **Tales from the Bully Pit** (Benito Cereno & Graeme MacDonald) Teddy Roosevelt and the ghost of Thomas Edison travel to the distant future on a wager, only to discover the terrible secret of space. 64pg $6.95

one-shot **Tales of the Realm** (Robert Kirkman & Matt Tyree) Epic comedy about three actors trying to make the big time in a world where modern society evolved alongside sorcery. Collects Tales of the Realm #1-6. 152pg $14.95

one-shot **Tom Judge: The Rapture** (Paul Jenkins & Clayton Crain + Jonathan Glapion; *Top Cow*; tpbk) Collects the entire Universe series, plus the Tom Judge: End of Days one-shot. 256pg $19.99

Tomb Raider 45 (James Bonny & Michael Choi + Tyson Wengler; *Top Cow*) After discovering she's been targeted for death by a powerful foe, Lara Croft is determined to sharpen her fighting skills. $2.99

one-shot **Tommysaurus Rex** (Doug Tennapel; graphic novel) Ely is an everyday boy, trying to cope with the death of his dog Tommy. The T-Rex he happens across sure helps out. 112pg b&w $11.95

new **Ultra** 1 (of 8; Jonathan Luna + Joshua Luna & Jonathan Luna) On a rare night off, Liv and Jen come across a mysterious fortune teller who foresees each of their destinies within seven days. $2.95

Victory Vol 2 (of 4; Marcelo Cassaro + Petra Lead & Edu Francisco) With the destruction of the Monster-God K'Athanoa, Victória tries to recover from her wounds and make a new life on Earth. $2.95

The Walking Dead 11 (Robert Kirkman & Charlie Adlard) Rick is finally getting settled into his new life. But something bad is looming on the horizon. b&w $2.95

Wanted 6 (Mark Millar & J.G. Jones; *Top Cow*) Wesley Gibson is at war with his own supervillain fraternity. Mature. $2.99

Witchblade 78 (Ian Edginton & Tony Daniel; *Top Cow*) Witchblade wielder and homicide detective Sara Pezzini investigates events that will reverberate throughout the Top Cow universe for a year. $2.99

Moonstone

new **Cyclone Bill and the Tall Tales** 1 (of 6; Dan Dougherty) Documentary film maker Maggie Bloom is following the band during the recording of what will be their biggest album to date. When lead guitarist Bill is murdered onstage, the other band members quickly withdraw from the limelight. How to finish the film? b&w $2.95

Kolchak: Tales of the Night Stalker 4 (Dave Ulanski + Pat Olliffe & Keith Williams + Ken Wolak) Tony Vincenzo experiences the world of Carl Kolchak when the two attempt to spend a night in a supposedly haunted house. Mature readers. $3.50

one-shot **Moonstone Monsters: Demons** 1 (various) In *Nocturnal Slave*, weary of the existence she leads, an otherworldly creature calls out for redemption. b&w $2.95

Oni Press

Blue Monday: Painted Moon 3 (of 4; Chynna Clugston-Major) Stuck in a small town with the same small-minded boys has worn thin for Bleu and Clover. Looking for new experiences and guys worth their time is the order of the day. b&w $2.99

Hopeless Savages Vol 3: Too Much Hopeless Savages (Jen Van Meter + Christine Norrie & Ross Campbell + Chynn Clugston-Major; tpbk) Arsenal Hopeless-Savage has a rematch with an old high school rival in a kung-fu tournament in Hong Kong. 120pg b&w $11.95

Love Fights 12 (Andi Watson) The Flamer's dead, and there's one more revelation for Jack and Nora to come to terms with in the conclusion to series one. Mature readers. b&w $2.99

new **Ojo** 1 (of 5; Sam Kieth & Alex Pardee) Annie has terrible luck with pets. For a hamster, getting Annie as an owner is like a death sentence. When Annie finds a little beastie in a drain pipe named Ojo, has her karma finally changed or is she destined for more disappointment? b&w $2.99

one-shot **Scandalous** (J. Torres & Scott Chantler; graphic novel) The most powerful woman in town is Paige Turner, the celebrity columnist for America's most-read newspaper. When a salacious tabloid mentality creeps onto newsstands, Paige goes toe-to-toe with Harry Richards, The Tabloid Dick. Good Lord. Mature. $9.95

one-shot **Teen Heaven** (Jose Garibaldi; graphic novel) Teen Heaven is the most popular band ever – or at least they could be. Things aren't looking so hot right now, though. It's like the rock rolled straight into the group and now they're scattered and broken. Mature. 168pg b&w $11.95

Queen & Country Vol 6: Operation: Dandelion (Greg Rucka & Mike Hawthorne; tpbk) When the chief of SIS is forced into retirement, Paul Crocker is forced to play a new game in order to just keep his job. But are agents Chace and Wallace prepared to be Crocker's pawns in this new match? Mature readers. 128pg b&w $11.95

Tokyopop

Arm of Kannon Vol 3 (various) At the foot of Mount Fuji, Lieutenant Ken and the Garma mystics converge on Mao Mikami, who is possessed by the fabled Arm of Kannon. 192pg $9.99

B'TX Vol 5 (various) Teppei and X are out to prove that two heads are better then one. But will two heads be enough when they come face to face with their next opponent, a hydra like B'T with nine heads? 192pg $9.99

Cardcaptor Sakura – 100% Authentic Manga Vol 2 (various) Sakura Kinomoto loves PE, hates

maths – but there's something about her that's not so normal. She can use magic! 192pg $9.99

new **CLAMP School Paranormal Investigators** Vol 1 (various) Five students run a study group to explore mysterious and unexplained phenomenon. 160pg $7.99

Crescent Moon Vol 3 (various) The battle between humans and the Lunar Race escalates. 192pg $9.99

Cyborg 009 Vol 7 (various) Dr Uranus butts heads with a giant dinosaur that wants to use the steel supermen as fossil fuel. 200pg $9.99

Eerie Queerie! Vol 4 (various) Mitsuo is overcome by a longing to get closer to Hasanuma. 200pg $9.99

Faeries' Landing Vol 5 (various) When Bast – the Egyptian cat goddess – steals the Scroll of Divination, the King of Avalon makes a grand appearance in the human world. 192pg $9.99

new **Instant Teen: Just Add Nuts** Vol 1 (various) Meet Natsumi Kawashima, a homely fifth grader with a craving for curves of her own. One day, after eating a packet of mysterious pink nuts, her wish comes true and she is transformed into a beautiful, sexy woman! 192pg ... $9.99

new **Jing: King of Bandits – Twilight Tales** Vol 1 (various) Take a fantastical, far-out journey in the out-of-this-world adventures of Jing and his feisty, feathered friend Kir. 192pg $9.99

Lament of the Lamb Vol 3 (various) Kazuna decides to move in with his sister Chizuna. 200pg $9.99

Lupin III – World's Most Wanted Vol 1 (various) When the old gang gets invited to a soiree on a remote island, the reunion turns out to be anything but happy, and the situation downright explosive. 192pg $9.99

Mahoromatic: Automatic Maiden Vol 3 (various) When Chiduko narrowly escapes death from an oncoming vehicle, her saviour turns out to be Toh Ryuga, the new science teacher at school. 192pg $9.99

Model Vol 3 (various) As Michael and Ken vie for Jae's affection, Eva makes a bold move to warn Jae to leave Michael's mansion. 192pg $9.99

Pet Shop of Horrors Vol 8 (various) When Leon confronts a murderous mermaid, Count D might be the one swimming with the fishes. Plus two more tales. 192pg $9.99

new **Slayers** Vol 1 (various) When Lina Inverse stumbles upon some loot stashed away by a group of bandits, she figures they won't mind sharing. 160pg $7.99

new **Stone** Vol 1 (various) In an arid world filled with decay and despair - where the faith of the people rests in a thirst for something to believe in - a mysterious girl with mystical powers of sight tries to find a way forward for her tribe. 192pg $9.99

new **Threads of Time** Vol 1 (various) Moon Bin Lee dreams of living in a different time – a time in which homework doesn't exist, and what is best in life is living by a warrior's ethic. 192pg $9.99

Tokyo Babylon Vol 3 (various) When a group of teenagers convinced that they are the chosen ones brings sin rather than salvation, it's up to Subaru and Hokuto to deliver everyone from evil. 192pg $9.99

new **Tokyo Tribes** Vol 1 (various) When the heat between two of Tokyo's gangs gets personal, a bitter rivalry explodes into all-out warfare. 192pg $9.99

Vampire Game Vol 8 (various) When the news Prince Yuujel's return reaches everyone in Zi Alda, all hell breaks lose, leaving Ishtar, Duzell and Darres are speechless. 192pg $9.99

The Vision of Escaflowne Vol 8 (various) Van and Hitomi have come to the end of their journey, but the final showdown with Dornkirk is not going as planned! 192pg $9.99

INTERNATIONAL

Black Library

Warhammer Monthly 84 (various) Frazer Irvine makes his Warhammer debut with *Plaguebringer*, while Gary Erskine offers the dark tale of *Hammerbildt*. 40pg b&w $3.50

one-shot **Warhammer: Loathsome Ratmen & All Their Vile Kin** (various; hbk) From the sewers and drains of the grim Warhammer world crawl the ratlike beasts of fur and claw, killers, and spreaders of disease. 96pg $29.99

one-shot **Warhammer: Lone Wolves** (Dan Abnett & Karl Richardson; tpbk) Following a group of beleaguered Imperial Guardsmen beset by the all-devouring Tyranid swarms on a remote ice planet. 112pg b&w $10.99

UK NEWSSTAND

DC Thomson

The Beano 3220-3223 (weekly; various) Classic kids humour anthology featuring Dennis the Menace, the Bash Street Kids, and all your favourites. £0.75

Beano Superstars 151 (various) One complete strip of the long-running humour anthology. 36pg £0.65

Classics from the Comics 97 (various) Anthology reprinting classic cartoon strips from DC Thomson's vintage kids' comics Beano and Dandy. 68pg b&w £1.20

Commando Action and Adventure Stories 3702-3709 (eight per month; digest; various) Featuring one self-contained comic strip per issue. Some new material. 68pg b&w £1.00

Fun-Size Beano 159-160 (fortnightly; various) Pocket-sized spin-off from the Beano featuring Dennis the Menace, and all the usual suspects. 68pg £0.60

Panini Comics

Action Man 99 (four-weekly; various) All-new soldier adventure yarns, plus quizzes and prizes based on the action figure. 28pg £1.50

Astonishing Spider-Man 112 (four-weekly; various; Marvel UK) Official UK outing for US Marvel comic adventures, with free posters and extras. 76pg £2.40

Avengers United 42 (various) Fast-paced action from Marvel's largest superhero team including the Hulk, Captain America, Iron Man, Hawkeye and the Scarlet Witch. £2.40

Doctor Who Magazine 346 (four-weekly; various) Contains celebrity interviews, feature articles and stories based on the soon-to-be rejuvenated doctor. 52pg £3.30

Essential X-Men 115 (four-weekly; various; Marvel UK) Classy collection of comicbook japery. The astonishing adventures are discreetly woven from one issue to the next, published in original American format. 76pg £2.40

Powerpuff Girls Powerzine 27 (various) Comicstrips and fun, entertaining and humorous features presented by the 3 superheroines, Blossom, Bubbles and Buttercup. £1.75

Scooby Doo 14 (various) Regular vanquishing of baddies who, frankly would have got away with it if it weren't for those pesky kids. Also contains competitions, activities, quizzes and more! £1.99

Spectacular Spider-Man 98 (various) New comic strips and games. Plus a bunch of free posters and a competition. 36pg £1.50

Transformers Armada 15 (various) Original UK comic strip, data files, cyber-puzzles, competitions and more. . £1.75

Ultimate Spider-Man 30 (various; Marvel UK) Tells a tale of Spider-Man, retold with modern-day computer enhanced artwork. £1.95

Ultimate X-Men 16 (various; Marvel UK) Reveals the incredible origins of Cyclops, Marvel Girl, Storm, Beast, Colossus and Iceman. £1.95

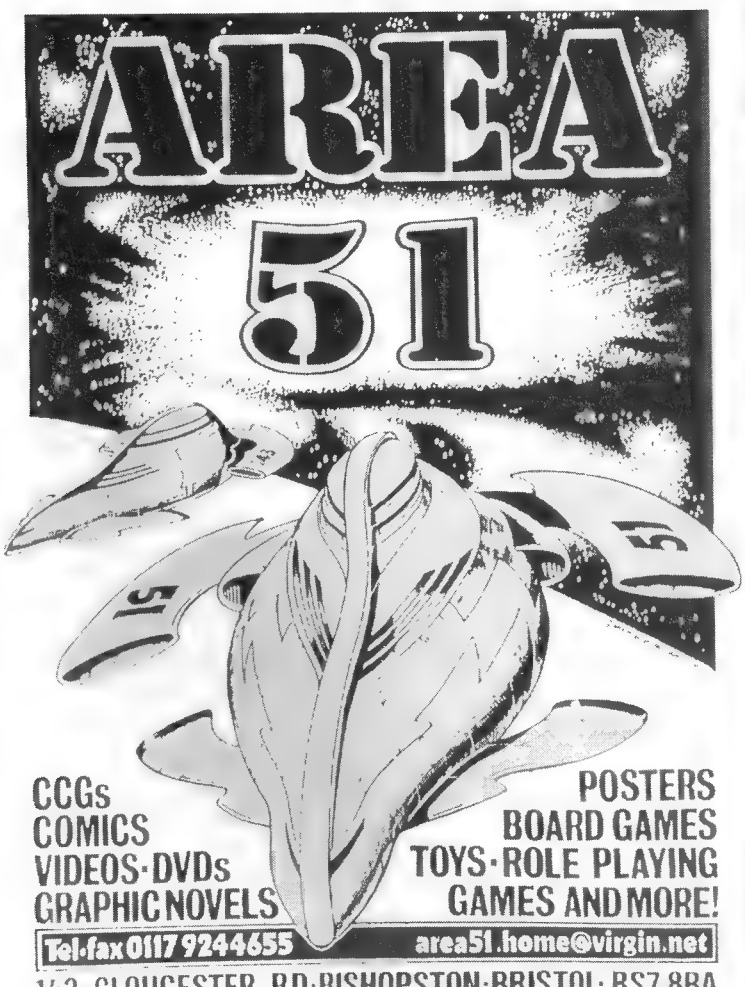
Wolverine & Gambit 100 (four-weekly; various; Marvel UK) Compiles US Marvel's own brand of Wolverine comic strips plus magazine-style feature articles on the tortured lupine one. 76pg £2.40

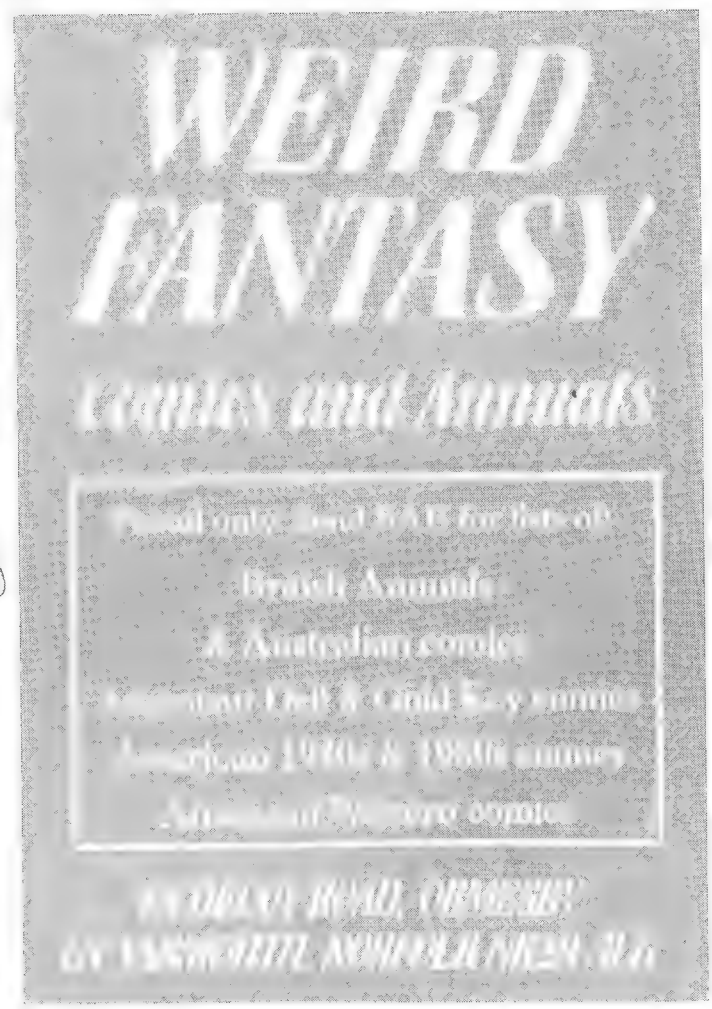
Rebellion

2000AD #1401-1404 (various) Judge Dredd gambles at a Cursed Earth Casino in *Big Deal at Drekk City*. £1.60

2000AD Extreme Edition 5 (various) Quarterly showcase for classic tales and unreprinted rarities, themed around a character or situation. 116pg £2.99

Judge Dredd Megazine 222 (various) Judge Dredd closes in on a mystery killer with a secret past in *Six*, and join the psychonauts on a fantastic voyage into Cass's brain in Anderson-PSI Division in *WMD*. £3.95





NOVEMBER 6-7, RAMADA HOTEL, BRISTOL

AREA 51 & Comics International PRESENT

COMIC EXPO

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

GENE COLAN

Leading Silver Age Marvel artist. Highlights include:
Doctor Strange, Daredevil, Tomb of Dracula, Iron Man, Sub-Mariner

SPECIAL GUEST:

MIKE NOBLE

Veteran British comics artist. Highlights include:
Captain Scarlet, Star Trek, Space 1999, Robin of Sherwood, Kung Fu

Plus 2000 AD, Games Workshop, AP Comics, Reed Comics, Forbidden Planet, American Dream, Artists Alley and much more

BONUS EVENTS

Friday, November 5: ProCON! Industry-only talks, panels and late-night pints
It's tax-deductable, with discussion on everything from copyright to computer technology, so treat yourself!

The return of the EAGLE AWARDS! The international industry leaders are back

email: comicexpo@fsmail.net For full details: www.komixworld.com

Reviews

*Because few retailers allow titles to be read before purchase, **CI**'s comprehensive reviews section enables comics readers to keep abreast of the wide range of titles currently being published and draw readers' attention to comics they might otherwise ignore. Naturally, this section is of even greater benefit to readers who rely solely on mail order, as they can only judge the quality of a title after purchase.*

***Review codes:** Individual titles are judged against all similar comics past and present on a **1** to **10** basis, while a comparison is made against previous issues of the same title, ranging from <---> to <+++>. Hence, a quality comic may score an 8 against all others, but have slid from a previous issue's 9, denoted by <->. No change is marked <=>. We do not compare **Bone** with **X-Men**, but review each within their genre.*

***Review panel:** Chris E. Bunting (CEB), Jon Edwards (JE), Kelvin Green (KG), Leigh Hunt (LH), David Knight (DK), Scott Montgomery (SM), Keiron Mullens (KM), Ian Murphy (IM), Lee Nelson (LN), Rob Nott (RN), Andy Smith (AS), Terence Stewart (TS), Mat Thomas (MT), Alex Thompson (MAT)*

CrossGen

Brath 14

by Dixon & Di Vito + Paris

Sumptuous art from the departing Di Vito adorns a lacklustre script from Chuck Dixon. Seeing as all CrossGen titles are dying quick deaths, I'd be wrapping things up if I were him, not have my characters running around in circles. Nice art while it lasts. (LH) 6

El Cazador 4

by Dixon & Epting

<+++> Redhand Harry pursues Captain Sin. Chuck Dixon's pirate adventure really takes off, and leaves the reader anxious to see how Sin might escape. And although the climax isn't easy to understand, it sure makes for one thrilling journey. Steve Epting paints majestic scenes of boats on the ocean and cannonball spray, cementing this book's epic feel. (IM) 8

Negation War 3

by Bedard & Pelletier + Meikis

Thankfully CrossGen still has employees left, although the way things are going, I wouldn't be surprised if this mini wasn't completed. So, enjoy it while you can. Bedard's script is as fun and feisty as usual, Pelletier seems able to draw anything that the often crazed script throws at him. At the end, we are left drooling at an impending battle between the First and the Lawbringers. (LH) 8

Dark Horse

B.P.R.D.: Plague of Frogs 3

by Mignola & Davis

<=> Things go pear-shaped for the team as they attempt to stop demonic fungi, frog monsters and, to top it off, resurrected corpses! Although Guy Davis's more intricate art makes this seem action-packed, Mike Mignola infuses the script with disconcerting pauses that break up the frantic pace. Who else could pull off a cliffhanger with a frog's glum face? (MAT) 7

Conan 3

by Busiek & Nord

A bit of a lull in the forward momentum of this title. The art is as gorgeous as ever but the story is a little too dialogue-heavy. Of course, as it's based on Robert E. Howard's books, I know I'm doing things a bit of a disservice but I like my Conan action-filled. (LH) 6

<=> It's been a long time since Conan was treated this well in comics. Cary Nord's painted pencils are uniquely distinctive and are up there with the quality of the Buscema/Alcala art in the early Savage Sword of Conan, published in the 70s. Kurt Busiek seems keen to get back to the roots of the REH stories and avoid the diluted franchise that Conan has become. This is low fantasy the way it should be done. (RN) 7

The Chronicles of Conan 4

by Thomas & Windsor-Smith + Buscema

<+> *Red Nails:* one of the greatest stories Marvel has ever published! It's Barry Windsor-Smith's finest artistic hour, digitally coloured and printed on glossy paper and, as a bonus, *The Song of Red Sonja* from #24 of the monthly Marvel series – his pre-Raphaelite tour de force that set new standards for Marvel/DC art in the early-'70s. Unfortunately the collection is padded with some sub-standard Buscema work, and the inappropriate inking on the other BWS story, so the score has to reflect the collection as a whole. Make no doubt about it, though, the Red Nails novella gets a solid 10 from me: it's 58 pages of pure magic. (RN) 7

The Moth 1

by Martin & Rude + Martin; Rocket Comics

After a Steranko-styled surreal intro page, Steve Rude and Gary Martin kick off a new series following their carny superhero. In a trademark-infringing costume, the crusading Moth tackles the dirty criminal underbelly, while attempting to support his friends in the freak circus. Although morally ambiguous, there is no denying the innocent tone to this work, accentuated by Rude's classically styled inspired artwork. (MAT) 6

Usagi Yojimbo 75

by Sakai

Usagi's travels with his unacknowledged son Jotaro come to an end after a clash with the Koroshi Assassins Guild, with neither father nor son able to tell the other that they know the truth. Sakai moves ably between action and character 'stuff', with this final episode in the story absolutely dripping with pathos while never becoming cloying. A truly original and consistently excellent title. (MT) 8

DC

Batman 627

by Winick & Nguyen + Friend

<=> Following on from a big name writer is always a double-edged sword, but in the case of Batman, Judd Winick isn't doing too bad with his tale of a Penguin-Scarecrow alliance that casts an interesting light on both their personalities. The treatment of the Scarecrow is particularly good, and almost invokes a sense of pity from the reader. Well paced, well written and illustrated by an appropriate artist. Pretty good, in fact. (RN) 7

Batman Adventures 14

by Templeton + Slott & Burchett + Beatty

<=> *Reel to Real* finds this "junior" Batman title in post-modern mode. Clayface has kidnapped the star of the original pulp movie The Gray Ghost, while pretending to be the star of a new Gray Ghost remake. And, of course, it's up to the Caped Crusader to save the day. This title has been consistently good this year, with another in a strong run of witty and exciting stories. (SM) 8

Birds of Prey 66

by Simone & Golden; Vertigo

<+++> Black Canary searches through her mum's files for clues about Senator Pullman's machinations. Gail Simone's plot may be by-the-numbers, but there's a sharpness in the script that gives it fizz. Michael Golden's pencils remind me of John Severin, but with a thicker, modern sheen, and give this book a powerful visual edge, especially on the rainy motorbike scenes. (IM) 7

DC: The New Frontier 4

by Cooke + Stewart

<=> The heroes begin to work out what's going on, and a mission to Mars goes disastrously wrong. Darwyn Cooke's cartoony art hides, and yet intensifies, a highly mature and complex superhero story. It's not the fastest moving comic around (which is an odd mental image!) but every page is a delight. (KG) 8

Fables 25

by Willingham & Buckingham + Leiloha; Vertigo

<=> Anxieties run high as Fabletown prepares for the wooden-soldier invasion (has no-one asked if they're vulnerable to fire?). Bill Willingham's plot is edgy, but his script is a wonder, with a great 'Young Republican' line and some of the best gags I've heard in a long time. Mark Buckingham's pencils astutely portray these terrifying new soldiers, and his page layouts add to the sense of anxiety and drama. Such build-up issues often feel like filler, but this has a palpable sense of fear and fully rewards the reader. Superb. (IM) 8

Gotham Central 19

by Brubaker & Lark + Gaudiano

<-> A former school friend takes diners hostage and insists on speaking to Driver. Ed Brubaker's plot is interesting, but not essential to this book; it wouldn't be out of place on *NYPD Blue*. That aside, it's still an exciting, character-based read that is illuminated by the gorgeous, grim art of Michael Lark and Stefano Gaudiano, which gives everything a sad, bruised quality. (IM) 7

<+> Superb artist Michael Lark makes a welcome return. A face from Detective Driver's school days drags him into a hostage situation before blowing his own head off. But when it becomes apparent that he was one of only two survivors of a sports team locker room bombing, some new evidence blows an old case wide open. Yet another fine episode; the writing's top quality, the art's top quality, hell, even the lettering's great! I've never read such a stylishly understated book that fits so seamlessly into the gaudy superhero universe in which it resides. If you haven't checked this out yet, where the hell have you been? (MT) 9

Human Target 10

by Milligan & Chiang; Vertigo

<+> Jim Grace escapes from jail, and asks old friend Chance to cover for him for a few days so he can reunite with his wife. But all is not as it seems. Peter Milligan's drama is entertaining enough, but the final twists make it a remarkable and highly enjoyable standalone story. Cliff Chiang's pencils and inks have the pathos of a bruised, bloodied but victorious boxer, and Lee Loughridge's colours really bring out the moods of this moving drama. (IM) 8

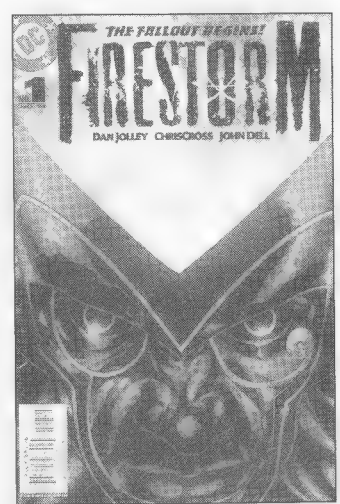
JLA 97

by Claremont & Byrne + Ordway

The John Byrne/Chris Claremont arc continues with story aplenty, sadly, the story is a little dull. Maybe it's just the JLA

Firestorm 1

by Jolley & ChrisCross



Goodbye to Ronnie Raymond and puffy sleeves, hello to a Firestorm for the Noughties. Teenager Jason Rusch is having money problems, his home life isn't much better, and things are about to get worse. Dan Jolley crafts a sympathetic and engaging principal lead, while ChrisCross provides some nicely understated visuals. The bad press this relaunch has garnered might just be a storm in a teacup. (TS) 7

A teenage kid loses his job – which he needs to help support his invalided soldier father – but taking a job as a courier for a local lowlife leads him into even more trouble... of an explosive nature. Fortunately, amid hails of gunfire he turns into Firestorm FOR NO APPARENT REASON, and that's it. That is unless you want to fork out another couple of quid next month to find out what the hell's going on. Probably the most annoying approach to writing a first issue rears its head yet again, to minimal effect. And the art is dull too. (MT 2

characters themselves. They are so iconic, so untouchable that I find it hard to care about them. Whereas the Doom Patrol members including the new ones such as Nudge are interesting enough to keep me reading. The art is fine although I didn't go a bundle for the oppressive colouring. (LH) 6

<-> Wonder Woman starts to make a good recovery from being run through with a sword in JLA #96, as you knew she would. The shadowy figures of the lesser superhero team refer to one another by name, dropping hints as if their identity were at all mysterious. And was that really a ghost of the Civil War dead that Nudge saw on the walls of the Key Mordaz prison? (DK) 4

<=> Nudge and Grunt flee the Tenth Circle, while Atom wonders just what he's got himself into. This by-the-numbers romp makes up for in enthusiasm what it lacks in originality; Byrne's art continues to offer some memorable images, which Jerry Ordway proficiently enhances. So while there's nothing new or breathtaking here, it's all acceptably and mildly pleasing fare. (IM) 6

JLA 98

by Claremont & Byrne + Ordway

A great John Byrne cover depicting the JLA and the Doom Patrol opens the penultimate chapter of this arc. Things are cranking up a few gears now and I'm genuinely looking forward to the Doom Patrol series. If you're a fan of JB's Fantastic Four run, I'd recommend giving the new series a go especially as the art will feature the far more compatible Doug Hazlewood on inking duties. (LH) 7

<=> There isn't a lot of story development to show for five chapters. The Doom Patrol is revealed at last, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the JLA on the cover. But why the Silver Age Doom Patrol? Where did all the madness and character development instigated by Grant Morrison and John Arcudi just disappear to? As to the wretched plot, I'm totally unconvinced that this is what JLA is about. (DK) 4

<-> The JLA tracks down the mystery heroes who aided Green Lantern against the Tenth Circle; and Rita Farr goes in search of The Atom. This doesn't feel like an adventure written with the JLA in mind, more of a "how can we best reintroduce a new Doom Patrol book?" story. Byrne's art is strong but not groundbreaking, his style still stuck in his '80s groove, which is pretty but dated and just not enough to lift Chris Claremont's take into something special. (IM) 5

The Losers 11

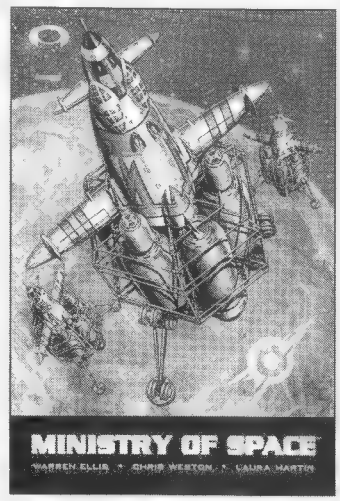
by Diggle & Jock; Vertigo

<+> The team gets close to its goal, and everything goes wrong... again. Action, humour and suspense are all in plentiful supply in this great comic, while Jock continues to provide gorgeous artwork. It's a bit lightweight for $2.95 but a must-read nonetheless. (KG) 8

Lucifer 50

by Carey & Russell; Vertigo

<+> Sandman readers will recall that P. Craig Russell drew the double-sized issue 50 of that title. And now, almost with a trace of homage, he does the same for Lucifer, in which Mike Carey casts an eye back to the events that first made the Morningstar turn his back on Heaven. Anniversary issues don't get much better than this, it's just a shame that Russell can't be persuaded to draw the rest of the series! Elegant and poetic in the same breath. (RN) 8



Ministry of Space 3

by Ellis & Weston + Martin

<=> This has been an albatross around the neck of Warren Ellis for longer than he probably cares to admit, but at last the dénouement of his Eagle-inspired space race mini has hit the stands, with revelations that are both expected and unexpected. The unexpected revelation is the final panel, or more specifically, what's in the background, and it genuinely comes as a surprise, although a logical one when you stop to think about it. That Ellis sneaks this in under our noses is a tribute to his erratic genius. Few endings impress me. This one did. (RN) 7

<-->In the long-awaited final episode we see the Ministry's progress to landing on Mars at the end of the Sixties, and finally find out the nature of Sir John Dashwood's black budget that started the Ministry at the end of WWII. And what a let down it is. The revelation is delivered in a very matter-of-fact style that robs the ending of any oomph, and the other ending, which shows the segregation in place in a British Empire of a new millennium doesn't really work when one considers the black head of the Mars expedition and Asian member of the Ministry's committee. The art's lovely and the script's gripping until the end, but what a let down. (MT) 5

<=> After over a year-long wait, the final issue of Ellis and Chris Weston's 'Dan Dare gone bad' sci-fi miniseries finally arrives. The glory-driven Sir John is brought to task over the secret funding behind the United Kingdom's space programme after WWII. Ellis's conclusions may leave a bitter taste in your mouth, but Weston's lovingly crafted artwork makes you realise this was worth the wait. (MAT) 7

Plastic Man 6

by Baker

<=> Our hero attempts to find solace at the monastery where the reformed criminal discovered his goodness, but is confounded by its superpowered monks and surrounded by the FBI, led by a grudge-bearing female agent. The cartoon suppleness of Kyle Baker's expressive artwork is nearly as malleable as the comical character, while his anarchic script shows true affection for this knowingly daft character. (MAT) 8

Rose & Thorn 6

by Simone & Melo + Green

<--> Ashleigh tries to exact her final revenge on Rhosyn, with Thorn trapped, permanently, inside her mind. Gail Simone's plot is terrible, a disappointing end to this series, which has generally offered sensitive insights into mental health issues. Dan Green's inks are meaty but sensitive, and while they have been a great strength for this book, even they struggle with the final scenes. (IM) 6

Seaguy 1

by Morrison & Stewart; Vertigo

Grant Morrison returns to DC and Vertigo with another wildly original series; our directionless star, Seaguy, and his cigar-chomping fish, Chubby, find themselves drawn into a sinister conspiracy in a world over-populated by superheroes and ever-watching eyeballs. Morrison shows his lighthearted side, with some great comical moments. Cameron Stewart clearly relishes working on this playful title, producing some of his best work yet. (MAT) 7

Superman 204

by Azzarello & Lee

This is a bit odd, and not a lot of fun. One might expect a comic called Superman to feature a hero doing something, er, super. Brian Azzarello, instead, is content to play out a conversation between Supes and a priest agonising over a loss of faith, while making obtuse references to an event that happened 'one year ago' (whenever that might be). Jim Lee does his usual, with lots of lines, which, while not bad, certainly has some rough edges and kinks to iron out. Not super enough for such a fanfared relaunch. (TS) 6

Teen Titans Go!

by Torres & Nauck + Stucker

The team is forced to deal with Thunder and Lightning as the brothers fall out. The art is excellent and the story well told, but the tone is all wrong; it seems to be aimed at a younger audience than the TV cartoon, which is odd, and the attempts to make it kid-friendly seem forced. (KG) 6

Y: The Last Man 22

by Vaughan & Parlov; Vertigo

<++> The Militia interrogates Dr Mann, and Agent 355 gets into trouble trying to rescue her, leaving Yorick vulnerable. Brian K. Vaughan's amusing and thrilling plots continue to entertain with reflective character moments and stirring action sequences. Goran Parlov's pencils have an innocent charm, but struggle to depict the brutality with any sense of pain or tension. (IM) 7

Image

Common Grounds 1

by Hickman & Jurgens + Oeming; Top Cow

An offering of stories by Troy Hickman that take an alternative look at the world of superheroics. The first, pencilled by Dan Jurgens, stars Speeding Bullet in a classic case of the grass being greener. Michael Avon Oeming provides the art for the second instalment, as Mental Midget and Man-Witch answer the call of... nature. Summary of this new comic: very impressive. (CEB) 8

Cursed 3

by Avery & Blevins + Molenaar; Top Cow

<=> As Cleopatra tries to persuade Shan to accept her gift, the dark forces of Victor Hahn conspire against them. Across the world, even Detective Medina isn't safe, as he falls into a deadly undead trap. With its strong creative team, this is definitely for those who like some horror with their mystery. (CEB) 7

The Darkness 7

by Jenkins & Basaldua + Choi; Top Cow

<=> Jackie finds being a mob boss hard work, and killer Jake Nightly and the Darkness are only making it harder. A smooth-flowing action-filled read by Paul Jenkins. Highly competent penciller Eric Basaldua stepped in for Dale Keown, who was presumably busy on the Hulk/Darkness crossover. A top title from Top Cow. (CEB) 7

The Darkness/ The Incredible Hulk

by Jenkins & Keown; Top Cow/Marvel

Jackie Estacado and Bruce Banner meet on a train. They bond a little. Terrorists attack the subway, and there's a misunderstanding. They fight a little. Then they fight the terrorists. They part as friends, realising how alike they are. How original. The art is functional at best, as bland as the story at worst. What a waste of two quid! (MT) 3

Invincible 11

by Kirkman & Ottley + Crabtree

<+> Mark confronts his father, and finds out that his life has been a lie. Art and writing work together to produce a story that is full of emotional and intellectual depth and makes use of some nice stylistic tricks. (KG) 8

<-> You know how some superheroes come to earth as strange visitors from another planet, often the last survivor of a doomed race? Robert Kirkman and Ryan Ottley offer a different take on the extra-terrestrial hero origin story here, in a tale of interplanetary despotism that will make you wonder if you can ever trust a do-gooder in a red cape and spandex again. (DK) 7

<--> Mark discovers the horrifying truth about his father. Kirkman's scripts have been leading up to this, but the wordy, drawn-out explanation feels dull and disappointing. Nonetheless, the consequences for the book are staggering and I'm excited to learn how it will develop from here. Ottley's art is fantastic at drawing out the humanity of a story, but struggles to bring much to the talking heads here. He's a genuine talent, but this plot doesn't bring out his best (IM) 5

Ministry of Space Omnibus

by Ellis & Weston + Depuy

In 2001 space is ruled by Britannia, in the form of the Ministry of Space. But how did the arrogant Battle of Britain ace John Dashwood beat the Yanks and Ivans to the stars? This edition, reprinting #1 and #2 of the long-delayed series, takes us from WWII to the late-'50s, and it's absolutely gripping stuff as the driven Sir John bullies Britain and a gang of Fritz rocket scientists to put him in space and save the British Empire. But where did all the money come from? Excellent taut scripting and realistic yet imaginitive art will keep you glued to this little gem.(MT) 9

Spawn: Simony

by Porcherot + Nikolavitch & Briclot; TMP/Semic Comics

Originally published in France, this is some

of the finest art I've ever seen. The colours illuminate and explode over gorgeous, detailed and often-dynamic freeze-frames, courtesy of pencils, inks and colours man Jean-Francois Porcherot. There are flaws in Alex Nikolavitch's plot, which can be dense and awkward to follow, but it rewards patience and determination in spades. Art of this quality, indescribably astounding, deserves this prestige format. (IM) 8

The Walking Dead 6

by Kirkman & Moore

<=> A zombie attack leaves their group diminished, causing tempers to flare up between Rick and Shane over control of the survivors. Although slightly schmaltzy, Robert Kirkman probes deeply into group mentality and survivor instinct, wrapping it up in the manner of a zombie horror flick. Tony Moore's last issue as artist is another great one; his skilfully ruffed up linework, alongside Cliff Rathburn's grey toning, suitably evokes the chilly desolation of the characters' world. (MAT) 8

Witchblade 72

by Wohl & Manapul + Gomez; Top Cow

<=> Sara investigates a murder, but it's her discovery of her own Witchblade powers that proves to be the real shock. Who lives? Who dies? Part of the innovative *Death Pool* event, in which fans get to vote which of the cast is saved, until the last two are killed off. An attractive comic from the fertile minds of David Wohl and Francis Manapul. (CEB) 7

Marvel

Amazing Spider-Man 507

by Straczynski & Romita Jr + Hanna

<=> It strikes me that the very best comics in Marveldom right now are those that respect what has gone before while adding their own fresh vision: Fantastic Four, Captain Marvel and, of course, this. As Peter has to face a bona fide spider man, we learn the truth of Ezekiel, and this title's mythos is shaken to its core. (CEB) 8

<=> Spidey tries to halt the Gatekeeper's rampage, only to make some stunning discoveries. J. Michael Straczynski pulls off a wonderful narrative trick here, much like the earlier spin (no pun intended) that he put on Spidey's origin, and sets up an epic plot. The smaller details aren't lost, with some excellent character work. The art team continues to do a superb job. (KG) 8

Ah yes, this is the sort of double-take I used to do regularly when watching JMS' TV show *Babylon 5*. Things you took for granted are shown to be false, characters you came to accept as good are not what they appear. Ezekiel, Spidey's mysterious advisor and benefactor during the JMS years, is shown to not have been acting in his best interests all this time. The revelation also goes a long way to explaining why so many mystical foes have been battling Spider-Man recently. Time for a reread... (LH) 9

Astonishing X-Men 1

by Whedon & Cassaday + Martin

The school reopens, and Cyclops forms a new team. For such a high-profile project, this kicks off in a rather slow and subdued manner, with a lot of time and space wasted on odd little scenes that don't quite work. The move back to costumes is unwelcome and badly justified, and the costumes themselves look even worse. John Cassaday's art is amazingly pretty as per usual, but seems too static, adding to the ponderous feel. (KG) 6

Daredevil: Father 1

by Quesada & Quesada + Miki; Marvel Knights

If you bought this expecting to get the same art noodlings that Joe Quesada did at the start of the Marvel Knights run, you'd have been disappointed. His experimental new style won't be to everyone's tastes and the story is fairly wafer-thin until halfway through when the plot kicks into gear. I'm looking for more at this prestige price point. (LH) 6

Quesada, freed of his trademark '90s free-flowing swirls, creates a vibrant, ominous New York, and shows much more flair and emotion on his beautifully lit open scenes than in his tight-up facials and talking head scenes. There's a blistering claustrophobia in the art that harks back to David Mazzuchelli, and in which Richard Isanove's painted colours revel. The plot, however, is slight, and barely shuffles into the first issue; the pacing will have to improve if this series is memorable for anything more than its art. (IM) 7

A disillusioned Daredevil skulks about in Hell's Kitchen, beats someone up, and is as perplexed as Matt Murdock by a new case. Quesada's simplified art is a great improvement, going ably from dark to almost comically caricatured an all the right spots, but his writing isn't up to much. Imagine a Daredevil three times as grim as Frank Miller's with only a third of the class and you should have a rough idea. This would have been a lot more in place in the edgy anti-hero boom of the Nineties. (MT) 5

Quesada returns to Marvel Knights and the character he helped revitalise for a personal project. Fulfilling pencilling and writing duties, Quesada once again turns to the character's ruminations on his paternal bonds, while a similarly affected businessman is introduced and a serial killer stalks the streets. So far, so Frank Miller, comparisons with which Quesada's smouldering and broad-shouldered Daredevil only heightens. (MAT) 5

The Avengers 81

by Austen & Coipel + Lanning

<-> The villain and her plot are revealed, Captain America saves the wimpy female heroes, something explodes, and Captain Britain kills the villain without repercussion. This comic is an utter mess. Nothing makes sense, and not in a good Grant Morrison way, either. The art is great, but is wasted on this tripe. (KG) 4

Truly horrible. A weak and plot hole-filled end to an insipid arc. Honestly, there isn't room here to tell you how really bad this issue is. Suffice to say I'm still shaking my head at some of the gaffs herein. The art isn't much better. Oliver Coipel seemed to try so hard depicting the perspective of a giant Wasp across a double page splash that he forgot that cars aren't half the size of two-storey houses. (LH) 3

The Avengers 82

by Austen & Kolins + Sotomayor

<-> As some familiar heroes from the past make an appearance in the Middle East, life at Avengers Mansion goes on as normal. This is absolutely terrible, with woefully incompetent writing and grotesque art. The comic gets a single point score only for Union Jack's new look. (KG) 1

As someone who cannot wait for the new Invaders series I was really looking forward to this arc. There is a stunning re-introduction to the Blazing Skull as well as cameos from the unfairly maligned US Agent along with Union Jack and Spitfire. Elsewhere, Austen weaves his usual 'magic' with a really dumb sub-plot between Hawkeye and the Wasp. The Avengers are written as the stupidest people on the planet as they finally start to work out who the new Captain Britain is. Kolins' art on the new Invaders makes up for some poor renditions of the book's regulars. (LH) 6

Captain America 26

by Morales & Bachalo + Townsend

<-> Cap reflects on Bucky's death, and tries to land a damaged plane. Chris Bachalo's pencils suit this brooding, introspective issue, which Brian Reber's colours do well to interpret. Robert Morales' plot feels light and insufficient to fill this issue, but there are some enjoyable character moments. (IM) 6

Captain America & The Falcon 3

by Priest & Sears + Hunter

Bart Sears' art is unfortunately over-shadowing the complex Priest script. Full of rippling muscles and bizarre full page posing shots. The script is pandering to this a bit though, with plenty of bone crunching violence. With the regular Captain America title returning to its old school Marvel Universe roots soon, I wonder if this title will still have a point. (LH) 5

<=> The Falcon struggles to buy enough time for Leila to get her WMD story out of Cuba. Priest's tale of *24*-style intrigue and confusion struggles on the page, hindered by Sears' sinewy figures. Fortunately, the thoughtfully constructed panel arrangements ensure the visuals are alluring, even when panel contents are stringy and alienating. Priest needs to conjure a brisker, clearer style of storytelling to keep me reading. (IM) 5

Captain Marvel 22

by David & Lopresti + Sotomayor

<=> Captain Marvel, still in the future, attempts to discover what's become of Marlo. Only one man holds the answer, but when he won't say, the Captain brings in someone far more persuasive: Rick Jones. Three issues until the Peter David and Keith Giffen curtain-closer, but this will always remain a testament to how good the less-prolific characters can be in the right creative hands. (CEB) 8

Daredevil 60

by Bendis & Maleev; Marvel Knights

Daredevil, Spider-Man, Power Man and Iron Fist fight super-powered ninjas. Yes, you read that right. Marvel super-heroes in their costumes fighting bad guys. Things are changing. The battle goes well for Murdock and chums. The same cannot be said for DD's personal life as his marriage to Mila appears to be heading for trouble. (LH) 7

<=> "You bring an army, I bring an army." And so Matt does as he closes down the Yakuzas with the aid of some familiar costumed friends. To call this a ballet of violence would be pretentious, but there is something very choreographed about the combat set pieces and edged realism that permeates these pages. More than any other superhero comic on the market, Daredevil is a modern fable that makes you believe there really could be men in tights fighting the good fight. (RN) 8

<=> High on mutant drugs, the Yakuza upstarts are confronted by Daredevil and his superpowered pals Luke Cage, Iron Fist and Spider-Man. This being another excellent Brian Michael Bendis script, the banter between characters doesn't let up, but after recent solemn issues, it's great to have Spidey bring some gaiety to the title. Alex Maleev's sombre art is somewhat undermined by the Adam West-style sound effect captions, but remains perfect for the title. (MAT) 8

Exiles 46

by Bedard & Sakakibara

Tony Bedard brings his excellent story-telling to Marvel and is comfortably at home in this alternate reality book. The Exiles arrive in the real Marvel Universe (Earth 616 to you and I) and find their new teammate Namora (a female Namor, of course) causing havoc. The art is cleaner and more realistic than I was fearing so all in all I think this book is back on my pull list. (LH) 7

<=> The time travellers pop over to the regular X-universe, where their new colleague causes them more problems than they were originally sent to deal with. Bedard's intent here is clearly to have a little fun with some of Grant Morrison's X-creations, which suffocates the main plot. Mizuki Sakakibara's fine lines work well, despite the occasional lapse in storytelling. (LN) 5

Fantastic Four 512

by Waid & Wieringo + Kesel

<=> With the FF's popularity at an all-time low, the Torch calls in the aid of the hero with more experience of unpopularity than anyone esle around: Spider-Man. As the one-upmanship kicks in, Spidey takes the Torch to a water park where they run into a certain supervillain. How good is this comic? Add Amazing to Fantastic and you're nearly there! (CEB) 8

Iron Man 80

by Miller & Tan

<=> Tony Stark tries to identify the source of Vitriol in Iraq. Philip Tan's pencils are notable in these dusty, desert scenes, and his Iron Man looks truly dangerous. John J. Miller's plot is a little slow and unrewarding, but it's

got enough promise in the tank. (IM) 6

Iron Man 81

by Miller & Tan

Ugly and impenetrable art. A horrible real-world story with Iron Man 'helping out' in Iraq, a storyline that due to publishing lag, now appears to be undiplomatic at best. On the bright side, there is at least a supervillain or two doing the rounds with Shellhead – a fiery reincarnated goddess and the return of Force. (LH) 4

<-> Iron Man, near-helpless against the acidic Vitriol, discovers her terrible plans. John J. Miller moves this plot on too slowly; it's spaced out so far that it practically drifts away. Nonetheless, there are interesting moments, and Philip Tan – obstructed by Chris Garcia's clashing colours on Vitriol's scenes – applies pencil and ink to find gold among all that glitters. (IM) 5

New Mutants 13

by DeFillipis + Weir & Randolph

<-> When Donald Pierce escapes custody, the original New Mutants line-up bands together to take him on; but the action is brief and vague, Khary Rudolph's narrative looseness undermining what strengths the scripting has. Rich Perotta's inks are unwieldy and don't mesh with the pencils, leaving the art messy and unsympathetic. An X-book in serious need of a revamp. (IM) 5

The Pulse 3

by Bendis & Bagley + Hanna

The aftermath of the death of Bugle reporter Terri Kidder leads Ben Urich, Jessica Jones and Kat Farrell to hunt for the killer. The trail of course leads to the murderous Green Goblin so Urich calls for the help of Peter Parker. This issue treads water a little until then, although there is some nice character stuff between Jones and Luke Cage. Mark Bagley's art is exemplary as usual. (LH) 7

<++> Brian Michael Bendis's Daily Bugle drama finally finds its feet as Jessica, Kat and Ben desperately try to identify a colleague's killer. The dialogue is back to the standard we've come to expect, especially noticeable in the scenes between Luke Cage and Jessica. Scott Hanna's inks rein in the most cartoony elements of Bagley's pencils, which really don't feel at home here, making the visuals a slowly-improving strength of this title. (IM) 7

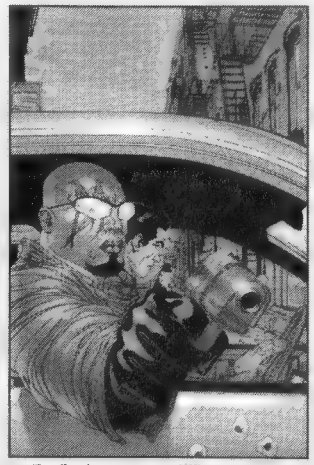
<-> Given Bendis as the writer, this series could have worked, but the fact is it doesn't. It's bad. That it's a Bendis title, and it's this bad, is almost unthinkable. And the art is frankly horrible – stylistically unsuitable, cartooney (and not in a good way) and made worse by the poor quality paint job slapped over the inks. How can Alias have turned into this? Words fail me. (RN) 3

<-> The painfully toned-down Jessica Jones confronts her partner over his reluctance to see her working for the Daily Bugle, while the paper's star reporters rally to uncover the murderer of one of their staff. Although Bendis's dialogue continues to shine, the plot suffers from lack of focus. Whoever made the decision to push forward the title without original artist Michael Gaydos should be shot; Bagley's lighthearted linework coupled with the bright computer colouring is painfully inappropriate. (MAT) 4

Runaways 15

by Vaughan & Alphona + Yeung

<-> The runaways search out their parents' hideout, hoping to disrupt their latest rite. Adrian Alphona struggles to make the 'robot' sentry look convincingly dangerous, but his take on each runaway is slowly more convincing. Brain K. Vaughan's script offers up some cool digs at fantasy writing, while his exploration of philoprogenitiveness is both relevant and amusing. (IM) 6



District X #1

by Hine & Yardin + Sicat; Marvel Knights

This stab at a low-level crime drama is one of Marvel's better recent offerings. A day in the life in a mutant ghetto is told through the eyes of a good and a bad cop, which mercifully avoids many of the clichés and pitfalls of the genre. David Yardin's facial expressions enhance the tale considerably, but be warned: the current trend for delaying the main character's entrance is again present. (LN) 8

When the cops can't handle Mutant Town, Bishop is attached to the NYPD to help out. Of course, we don't see this until the last page as writer David Hine jumps on the current bandwagon of using supporting characters to set a story and introducing the main character on the final page as a cliffhanger, even though we know the character will appear in their own comic at some stage (Silver Surfer, Firestorm, Sentinel, etc). To be fair to Hine, this is actually a gripping first issue, and I was pleasantly surprised at how much I enjoyed the story of a good cop/bad cop partnership trying to cope. The art isn't outstanding but does the job. (MT) 7

She Hulk 3

by Slott & Bobillo

Dan Slott is one to watch. After the critically-acclaimed Arkham Asylum: Living Hell mini his work here is getting him nothing but further kudos. This is a nicely crafted mystery tale of ghosts, murder and betrayal, all in one issue, with continuity references to a recent Fantastic Four story – relevant to the plot but not done to be confusing to the casual reader. See – it can still be done! The art is a little cartoony and Bobillo's Thing is appalling but that's a minor niggle. (LH) 8

Spectacular Spider-Man 14

by Jenkins & Rivera

Well this makes a nice change. I've never been too enamoured with Paul Jenkins' work on the Spider-Man titles but this is a beauty. It's a refreshing take on tales such as 'The Boy Who Collected Spider-Man' – wherein we see Spider-Man from a third party's point of view (in this case that of a young disabled boy) battling Morbius. Exquisitely painted by Paolo Rivera, this is a real gem. (LH) 8

<+> Jenkins works with painter Rivera for a standalone episode in which an imaginative young boy with cerebral palsy encounters his hero. After the exaggerated styles of recent Ameri-manga artists, it's quite a change to see the realism of Rivera's subdued tones. Jenkins tells a fine tale of hero worship and the humanity behind the mask, but is perhaps a bit too saccharine for some tastes. (MAT) 7

Spider-Man 2

by Millar & Dodson + Dodson

<+> Who kidnapped Aunt May? A desperate Spider-Man approaches the Avengers, then runs off in a huff. Perhaps The Owl will be more helpful? Riiiight. Mark Millar's plotting makes little sense, and his Avengers act like rude, inexperienced chumps, but fortunately he retains a measure of direction that keeps readers interested. Terry Dodson's pencils are always capable, and have a strong narrative direction, which Rachel Dodson's competent inks reinforce, but neither dazzle. (IM) 6

Thor 78

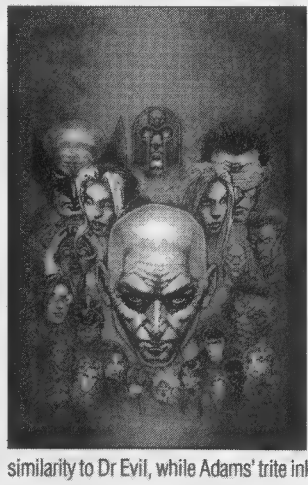
by Jurgens & Eaton + Geraci

Epic or folly? Epic, it seems. Many of the threads of Dan Jurgens' stories over the last six years are being neatly reintroduced and tied in big bows. As this team rush toward their final issues, I can only be thankful that the art team seems destined to stay at Marvel whilst the incoming Oeming and Di Vito should hopefully be able to carry on these standards. (LH) 9

Ultimate Fantastic Four 5

by Bendis + Millar & Kubert

<+> Three battle one of Mole Man's monster minions, thus falling into his trap. A sharp script lifts this above the average big battle issue. Adam Kubert's pencils have a great understanding of height and perspective, but the struggle to squeeze the script into this issue means his work isn't best showcased. It stills lacks the freshness that makes the other Ultimate books stand out. (IM) 7



Excalibur 1

by Claremont & Lopresti + Adams

Xavier finds new allies in his rebuilding of Genosha, is haunted by Moira McTaggart, and encounters a new Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. Chris Claremont scripts this too-wordy issue as an introduction to the new series, so it's too early to judge the book's chances of success. There's much to enjoy in the art, however, with vibrant Liquid! colours and impressively detailed Aaron Lopresti pencils. (IM) 6

Xavier bemoans the state of Genosha and mutant-human relations (again) in this tired and wearisome effort. The fact that old Charley is saddled with another bunch of young mutants is proof that he can't carry his own book. Professor X bears an unfortunate similarity to Dr Evil, while Adams' trite inks merely compound matters. (LN) 3

Ultimate Six 7

by Bendis & Hairsine + Miki

<=> Harry Osborn – often barely distinguishable from Peter Parker – tries to talk his dad down, and fails. Most of this issue is a talkie, which is where writer Brain Michael Bendis excels, ensuring this series ends on a strong note. Sadly, it's been poorly plotted and has struggled to make the bang it first promised, needing Bendis's sharp ear for dialogue to make the last two issues work. Trevor Hairsine continues to produce memorable art, pairing well with the laid-back inks of Danny Miki. Let's hope their next project has more meat to it. (IM) 7

Ultimate Spider-Man 58

by Bendis & Bagley + Thibert

<+> Spider-Man concludes his tussle with Dr Octopus, but finds himself stranded in Brazil. While Brian Michael Bendis's main plot has been risible, his sub-plot of Gwen discovering Spider-Man's identity gives this issue a promising finish. Even so, I'll be relieved when this arc ends next issue. Mark Bagley's art continues to shine, with Art Thibert's inks emphasising the cute in his work without restricting the violence. (IM) 5

Ultimate Spider-Man 59

by Bendis & Bagley + Hanna

<+> Gwen knows Peter is Spider-Man, and confronts him for the truth as to how her father died. Peter handles it coolly, the well-balanced boy that he is, thanks to Brian Michael Bendis's wise script. Mark Bagley always draws well, and has some clever uses of camera shots, but is hampered by over-zealous colours. A couple of good jokes kept me awake, but this lost it some way back. And introducing Carrion doesn't suggest they know how to get back on plan. (IM) 6

Ultimate X-Men 45

by Bendis & Finch + Miki

<=> The X-Men come to terms with the loss of one of their own, and expose the mutiny within the President's top army personnel. Except... weren't those walls meant to be safe from mutant minds? The script is good, not lingering in a too-sentimental way over the key death scene, while the character reactions, especially those of the 'new mutants', hold together well. David Finch's action scenes are terrifyingly good, but he struggles to make personal expressions convince, hindered by Danny Miki's somewhat sloppy, unrefined inks at such moments. (IM) 7

Uncanny X-Men 444

by Claremont & Davis + Farmer

A super-slick start to the revamp, with Alan Davis's art not subject to Chris Claremont's trademark scripting verbosity, but the real likelihood is that Davis is co-writer. The law-enforcing X.S.E. is introduced, while a certain patriotic captain is reintroduced. The costumes also make a welcome return: yellow spandex doesn't work for movies, but it certainly does for comics. (CEB) 7

Davis could draw piles of manure and I'd still buy it. This is a Claremont script so I was umming and arring but finally gave in. Only

joking. Claremont was actually having a reasonably good day when he wrote this as it's fun without being frivolous especially in the scenes of the baseball game between mutants at the start. There are some nice hints of what's to come (The Fury!), some new costumes and a whole host of team members with endless possibilities. (LH) 8

<=> A fast-paced (for Claremont) look at the multitude of mutants currently inhabiting the X-mansion. This 'handbook' approach makes for little in the way of a story but brings back some of the long-absent character banter. Davis's classic superhero stylings are rendered mute by some horribly flat colouring. (LN) 5

<-> With an embarrassing inevitability Claremont makes another comeback to the title, as Marvel attempts to wow back disenchanted readers to the X-franchise. Inevitably this involves a friendly baseball match, the return of disco-era spandex and the introduction of more inexplicable plotlines that will probably be ignored once management initiates another change. Davis's clean artwork is pretty enough, but is just a little too clean and friendly for the quirky world of mutants. (MAT) 4

X-Men 157

by Austen & Larroca + Miki

<+> Polaris senses imbalances in the magnetic fields, leading the team to China – and to Xorn? Chuck Austen's script concentrates on everyone bickering about the teams they are now on, and while a couple of good points – about Wolverine and Juggernaut – are made, it's with a ham-fisted, heavy-handed style that's transformed easy-going Iceman into a whinger. Fortunately, Salvadore Larroca's art is somewhat improved, perhaps less rushed now, but Danny Miki's inks continue to hamper his style. (IM) 5

X-Statix 22

by Milligan & Allred + Craine; Marvel Knights

<+> Captain America faces Tike in Thailand while Wanda and Dead Girl battle on a ship transporting toxic waste. This is great work. There's plenty of humour and more serious commentary in here, and the central plot, while hackneyed, is told with enthusiasm. The art is, of course, excellent. (KG) 8

Sadly this title seems to be running low on ideas and maybe it's right that it is being axed shortly. Here Captain America battles and defeats (quite rightly) the Anarchist whilst the Scarlet Witch is somewhat stupidly beaten by Dead Girl. This is a parody of the old Avengers/Defenders War but it just feels tired. (LH) 5

<=> The team splits up in the global search for the missing parts of Doop's exploded brain, leaving Tike to unleash his righteous fury on flag-clad white boy Captain America and Dead Girl to use underhand tactics on Scarlet Witch. Pete Milligan updates and upsets the clichés of inter-team fighting, being particularly iconoclastic with his handling of Cap patriotism. Mike Allred seems to be having as much fun for this concluding chapter of the series. (MAT) 9

X-Treme X-Men 46

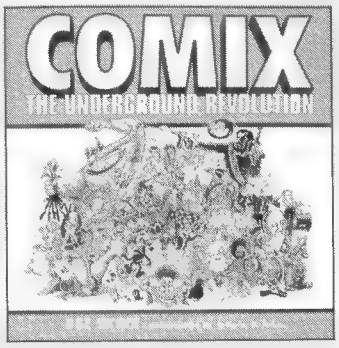
by Claremont & Kordey + Adams + Pepoy + Rapmund

<++> The consequences of Magneto's destruction in New X-Men. Amara's Nova Roma past is restored, along with Gambit's powers. Writer Chris Claremont does a reasonable job of tying up loose ends and building a foundation for the future, and scripts scenes that peer into the hearts of the characters. Igor Kordey's pencils look somewhat improved under different inkers, but he consistently struggles to make these characters instantly identifiable. (IM) 6

Comix: The Underground Revolution

by Skinn; Collins & Brown/Quality (£14.95ppbk/£24.95hbk)

There aren't many decent books that take the time to cover the history of comics and do it well, and those that do exist mainly cater for the established Marvel/DC houses. Comix details the history of the counter culture comicbooks that rose to infamy in the late Sixties – a period of publishing that is generally a big unknown to most Brits due to the scarcity of titles that made it over to the UK. This was a time when every writer and artist looked like a Hawkwind roadie, or so the photos here suggest! This really is a comprehensive labour of love – profusely illustrated, very informative and well worth getting if you have any interest in the development and history of the comicbook medium. (RN) 8



US Indies

Dang!

by Cendreda; Top Shelf

A put-upon anthropomorphic Herbert Hound attempts to cover his nakedness, but his idea of fashion sense causes even more derision. Ted goes for a run, insulting everyone he meets, yet is oblivious to his obnoxiousness. And a spoilt brat hunts for his blunt hat. Yup, it's more black-humoured slices of life as told by Martin Cendreda. His delicate lines and comic touch is part Dan Clowes, part Viz-style grotesques, but all painfully funny. (MAT) 7

Decoy

by Williams & Huddleston + Almond; Penny-Farthing Press; $15.95

A collection of the original mini, and rightly so, as it's all here: streetwise cops, mega-lomaniac villains, Huddleston's great art, Eli Williams's great writing, and, let's not forget, Decoy the alien, one of the most colourful and charismatic characters in comics. An enjoyable adventure romp. (CEB) 7

Deep Sleeper 2

by Hester & Huddleston; Oni Press

<=> Cole Gibson gets embroiled in the dream world, learning he may have a greater role in life than as a failed writer, but also discovers there are dangers in leaving your sleeping body unattended. Hester and Huddleston have fashioned a remarkable fantasy series that plays along with the conventions of escapist adventures, setting new benchmarks by creating a *Little Nemo* for adults. Huddleston once again works wonders with his organic strokes of ink. (MAT) 7

Dragons Arms: Chaos Blade 2

by Stone & Hutchison; Antarctic Press

<=> The trademark epic scene-setters are all here, but this time artist David Hutchison also gets to cut loose on an old-fashioned scrap, as Eon sends his men after Anrack. With Hutchison and writer Carl S. Stone at the helm, the standard of this series is being kept high, and it should certainly pull in the ripe-for-readership Lord of the Rings crowd. (CEB) 7

Heaven Sent 2

by Dunn & Bevard; Antarctic Press

<=> The seemingly impossible occurs as Kyle awakes from his coma, but he may soon wish he hadn't, as first he gets chased by a winged girl wielding a sword, and then something far worse appears. A terrific new manga series with a big heart, by accomplished creator Ben Dunn. (CEB) 7

Legends From Darkwood 4

by Reid & Kantz; Antarctic Press

<=> Andrew the Unicorn makes a deal with a demon, then sets out for revenge. Writer Christopher Reid constantly pulls the direction of this story along in unexpected tangents, while keeping the comedy high and allowing artist John Kantz to cut loose. The last issue this may be, but an ongoing series is definitely warranted. (CEB) 7

Love Fights 9

by Watson; Oni Press

<+> Nora and Jack try to convince The Flamer they have uncovered his sabateurs identity. Writer and artist Andi Watson does a wonderful job of satirising comic ret-cons like DC's Crisis, but thankfully the issue remains perfectly readable and avoids the verbage that can stifle parody. His artwork continues it's plaintive, fetching styles, but when the Crisis and irritated Flamer scenes offer him the opportunity to demonstrate dramatic flair, he proffers it in spades. Wonderful. (IM) 8

Micronauts 2

by Jolley & Broderick + Pepoy; Devil's Due

<=> The Micronauts agree to do King Atlas's dirty work for him in exchange for a base and supplies, and a subjugated people stand to benefit. This issue features a robot drone that bears a stronger resemblance to the vintage toy Microtron than the crew member himself does. There's also a tribute to the Marvel Micronauts character Bug, in the form of Kitokk, leader of an insect tribe. (DK) 6

Mister O

by Trondheim; NBM; $12.95

Follow Mister O as he tries valiantly to cross a chasm that everyone else seems able to, in this collection of strips by comics maestro, Lewis Trondheim. With an amazing 60 panels to each page-long strip, no words but lots of humour, this really proves the skill of this remarkable creator. An alternative tale with mass-market appeal. (CEB) 8

Ninja High School 113

by Bair & Bevard; Antarctic Press

<-> Creator Katie Bair gives us an uncharacteristic slower-paced issue, as she uses the characters' predicament – trundling around while lost in a cave – to flesh out their relationships and backgrounds. The insanity quota still runs high, thanks to the chauvinistic Akaru, a welcome addition to the ever-increasing ensemble cast. (CEB) 7

The Octopi And The Ocean

by James; Top Shelf; $6.95

The account of an age-old war between octopi and sharks. Mix in buses that turn into boats, underwater weddings, and universal balance maintained by clean dishes, and you're left with a bizarre – but absorbing – tale. Dan James's presentation is convincingly impressive, more so when one considers his lack of reliance on words. An ambassador for the utterly alternative. (CEB) 7

Queen & Country 24

by Rucka, Hawthorne; Oni Press

As inspired a spy series as we're ever likely to get in the pages of a comicbook, Queen & Country is only let down by the second division art. Top quality writing and downbeat reality is unfortunately served up with a side order of simple pencil sketches and very little background, and this only serves to diminish the effect of Greg Rucka's scripts. 24 issues in, it's about time this comic got a resident artist from the first division. (RN) 6

Rich Johnston's Holed Up 1

by Johnston & Martinez; Avatar

Bob and Sally love guns. So do their family. They make jokes about guns. So do their family. Only some of them are funny. Gonzalo Martinez struggles to make Sally look human, but otherwise has a solid feel for cartoon art, full of promise. Rich Johnston seems to be doing his best to be tasteless and offensive, but rarely manages it, instead crafting an unsubtle and fun – but rarely rib-ticklingly funny, as it should be – parade of poorly developed puns. A few great, sharply tasteless lines, but nowhere near enough; the ratio needs to improve... quickly. (IM) 5

Silent Hill: Dying Inside 2

by Ciencin + Templesmith; IDW

<—> Lynn and Troy find trouble in Silent Hill; while Scott Ciencin's plot disintegrates, which is disappointing after the first issue's storming opener. Ben Templesmith's art is among his best, with bold use of colour and striking visual motifs. His combination of scratchy pencil and inks, enveloped by clouds of grim colour palettes and provocative arrangements mark him out as an innovator and still-growing talent, but it takes more than first-class art to make a book worth the purchase price. (IM) 7

Tales of the Realm 4

by Kirkman & Tyree; MVCreations

<=> Comedy all the way in this endearing fantasy, as everybody chases Thomas and Stifotel. The creative team has brought a truly unique and fresh vision to comicdom here; could an ongoing series be in the offing? Also presented is a very special Matt Tyree back-up strip. (CEB) 7

The Victorian 21

by Houghton + Wein & St Aubin + Taylor; Penny-Farthing Press

<=> Suspense, intrigue, tough cops, masked heroes, diabolical villains – can this title possibly offer any more? Well, yes: there's the great scripting of Len Wein, and the colourful, expressive art of Claude St.Aubin. A cool comic from the home of Captain Gravity and Decoy, Penny-Farthing Press. (CEB) 7

Canadian Indies

Thieves & Kings 44

by Oakley; I Box Publishing

<=> Young sorceress Health helps a young boy come to terms with leaving his family, while her close friend Kim is confronted by her dark destiny. There can be little doubting the sincerity Oakley pours into this work; from the editorials sharing his ponderings on life, to the amount of attention he devotes to the lovingly rendered panels. Although this naïve charm may seem outdated, its compassion shines through. (MAT) 8

Transformers: Energon 23

by Furman & Ng + To; Dreamwave

<-> Optimus takes the battle to the Terrorcons, with more success this time. The art, while very well done, suffers from terribly unclear storytelling. The writing also suffers from moments of confusion, and the endless fight scenes are starting to wear thin. (KG) 6

Transformers: Generation One 4

by Mick & Figueroa; Dreamwave

<-> The Starscream brothers battle Omega Supreme, while the Autobots get into worse trouble. This remains the best storyline so far, but things are starting to fray at the seams, with some unclear plotting and clunky characterisation. The art team continues to excel and just about make up for the deficiencies in the writing. (KG) 6

Transformers/GI Joe 6

by Ney Rieber & Lee; DreamWave

<-> The honourable Autobots and resilient Joes make their final confrontation with the evil forces of Cobra, aided by the Decepticons, who are betrayed by their own forces. John Ney Rieber brings the '80s toy crossover to a slightly dissatisfactory close. Pushed to include the many characters within the confines of the six issues, the finale feels rather rushed and a little confusing. Jae Lee's shadowy artwork is partly to blame, as it works more effectively at a more leisurely pace than this frantic conclusion. (MAT) 6

Transformers: War Within – The Dark Ages 6

by Furman & Wildman + Sander + Armstrong; DreamWave

<-> The various factions team up in order to end the threat of The Fallen. The excellent art and snapy dialogue can't make up for the confusing climax and the fact that the entire issue seems to be a hodge-podge of direct lifts from Simon Furman's Marvel UK work. Good, but disappointing. (KG) 7

UK Indies

Comicbook Hero Toys

by Marshall;
£24.95 from Bushwood Books
6 Marksbury Ave, Surrey TW9 4JF

John Marshall has created such comics as Mortar Man and Mighty Bomb. No surprise, then, that his toy guides always have a strong emphasis on comic characters. But here, at last, in a book dedicated exclusively to them, he can cut loose. From Batman scissors to the "acrobat" Hulk, a *Superman II* board game to a Spider-Man hand puppet; you name it, there's a photo of it. Marshall's wit prevents the accompanying text from becoming too dry, simultaneously delivering some interesting facts. Fantastic. (CEB) 8

Comics Creators on Spider-Man

by Tom DeFalco; Titan Books

A veritable who's who of the Spider-verse. Written by former Marvel editor-in-chief, Tom DeFalco, the book is a collection of interviews, notes and sketches by Spider-Man writers and artists such as Stan Lee, Brian Michael Bendis, Todd McFarlane and John Romita. DeFalco provides us with an intriguing insight into the webbed world of Marvel. A must for the die-hard Spidey fan and a fascinating read for everyone. (ST) 7

UK Newsstand

The Avengers United 39

by Thomas & Adams; Panini UK

<=> More classic reprints. The Kree-Skrull War continues and showcases Neal Adams' groundbreaking art to great effect. Long-time Marvel UK fans will also note a re-coloured Adams cover that previously adorned the final issue of The Avengers weekly from the 1970s. (KM) 7

The Avengers United 40

by Thomas + Adams; Panini UK

<+> The last three (and a bit) instalments of *The Kree/Skrull War*. Neal Adams significantly influenced comicbook storytelling, and this is immediately evident in the final chapter, drawn by John Buscema but undeniably guided by 'consultant' Adams. Next issue: JLA/Avengers 4 and vol 1 #98 (Barry Windsor-Smith). Subscribe now! (KM) 8

Batman: Legends 7

by various; Panini UK

<-> A relatively disappointing instalment of *Hush*: the Joker seems more of a cipher than previous guest villains and Jim Lee's rendition of the Clown Prince of Crime is overly caricatured. The Orca storyline concludes in predictable but enjoyable fashion, while Deadman proves surprisingly active in the archive reprint. (KM) 7

Batman: Legends 8

by various; Panini UK

<=> Catwoman discovers Bruce Wayne is really Batman. The Joker discovers Hush is really... Two-Face. Yeah, riiiight. We're two-thirds into this story, with lots of action but little plot. The Batman/House of Mystery pairing is absurd but fun. The high point, in literary and visual terms, is Ed Brubaker and Scott McDaniel's *Fearless*. (KM) 7

Commando 3710

by various; DC Thomson

<=> Heard the one about three Merchant Navy seamen and a Royal Artillery bombardier causing mayhem in Nazi-occupied Norway? When they're not bashing the enemy, they're knocking lumps out of each other. *Packing a Punch!* is another gem from Commando; a rollicking read, full of wonderfully clichéd dialogue, unlikely situations and square-jawed heroics. Terrific fun. (SM) 8

Doctor Who Magazine 343

by Gray + Ross; Panini UK

DWM has been going strong for 25 years – almost as long as the TV series that inspired it! An overlooked UK comicbook gem, the current strip takes the concept in a different direction, while retaining the all-important cliffhanger element. Don't wait for the new series; check it out now! (KM) 7

Essential X-Men 112

by Claremont & Larocca/ Morrison & Quitely; Panini

<=> The impact of Psylocke's death is lessened, mainly because her potential has been poorly realised since her ninja makeover. Similarly, Beast's appearance undergoes a questionable update this issue, which does little to develop the character. Grant Morrison's refreshingly economical script and perspective on the core characters and components provides a welcome contrast, complemented by Frank Quitely's striking art. Not too sure about his predilection for unfeasibly long-legged females with no hips, however... (KM) 6

Essential X-Men 113

by Morrison & Quitely/ Claremont & Larocca; Panini UK

<+> *E For Extinction* concludes with genocide in Genosha and the team further unravelled by the arrival of Emma Frost and Cassandra Nova. Despite some inconsistencies, Frank Quitely's art offers a fresh view of the X-world. X-Treme X-Men ploughs a more traditional furrow (excepting the upgrading colouring technique) but is surprisingly entertaining. (KM) 7

Judge Dredd Megazine 218

by various; Rebellion

<+++> The Cursed Earth is given prominence in this, another fine edition of the Megazine. Judge Dredd, Mean Machine, Middenface McNulty and Black Siddha begin new adventures, and *Whatever Happened To?* spotlights Conrad Conn in a story that makes few concessions to new readers, but may satisfy old fans. *Helltrekkers* gets a well-deserved reprint. Underrated in its day, and hastily dismissed since, here's its chance to find a new audience. (DK) 8

Judge Dredd Megazine 219

by various; Rebellion

<-> *Judge Dredd* is let down this month by a lacklustre story and jarring digitally scanned backgrounds. *Young Middenface* is below par, despite Goddard and Teague's classy delineation. Rennie's *Gribligs* story is cute, and *Mean Machine* is a comedy highlight. *Black Siddha* is a bit of an uneven read: winning farce, but rubbish politics. Reprints of *Charley's War* and *Helltrekkers* still form the backbone of the comic. (DK) 6

Mighty World of Marvel 16

by various; Panini UK

<-> Two Frank Miller Daredevil tales this month. Firstly, Matt is placed under the (pretty inept) protection of Heroes for Hire. Then, Ben Urich finds himself marked for death by Elektra. So much has been written about these tales that it's hard to add anything new, but it's great to recapture the excitement of getting a monthly dose and the anticipation of waiting for the next one. Sadly, the Hulk reprint remains characteristically poor. (KM) 6

Mighty World of Marvel 17

by various; Panini UK

<=> This issue spotlights The Punisher. Oddly, the chosen material reprints his first appearance in Amazing Spider-Man 129, as a dupe of The Jackal, with no obvious links to the forthcoming movie. Still, a concise and comprehensive feature, even covering his misguided Marvel Knights 'supernatural' revamp, helps fill in the gaps. (KM) 6

Spectacular Spider-Man 98

Quinn + Royle & various; Panini UK

<=> With an added story page count and some nifty character profiles, it's a new look for this home-grown Spidey outing... but will the star be around long enough to soak up this glory when Doc Ock recruits the Absorbing Man and Mister Fear? Strong adventure escapism courtesy of Jason Quinn and John Royle. (CEB) 7

Toxic 20

by Stringer & various; Egmont

<=> Writer-artist Lew Stringer causes a stink with Team Toxic; Captain Custard and 'Nanas have a shock in store for Dr Devious in Stu Taylor and Paul J Holden's regular contribution, while creators John Short and Alex Paterson really drop Rex in it. Along with news of cartoons, videogames and toys, Toxic has something for everyone! (CEB) 7

Toxic 21

by Stringer & various; Egmont

<=> Billy and Scrub bump into Merlin in Jaspre Bark and Mark Daniels' zany *Time Toilet*, while the Normz come to rid the world of coolness in Lew Stringer's *Team Toxic*, and over in *'Nanas and Custard*, Cap proves that he doesn't need to out-think Dr Devious to win the day. Add to that a fun *Pig Brother* strip, and a sneak peek at *Spider-Man 2*, and it's another gruesomely good issue. (CEB) 7

2000 AD Progs 1386-1389

by various; Rebellion

<-> Prog 1386 clears the decks for another Spring Attack. Four new series start with a bang in Prog 1387, and John Wagner and Cam Kennedy produce a Judge Dredd short in the classic humorous style. Bill Savage makes a welcome return even if the writing clunks. Chopper's back too, making a dramatic return to Mega-City One. A.H.A.B. sets Moby Dick in space, and Low Life puts undercover judges centre stage. (DK) 7

Ultimate Spider-Man 28

by Bendis + Bagley; Panini UK

<-> Reprints US-M #42 and the final third of the Spider-Man Super Special. The lead strip is tedious, as Peter tries to convince Geldoff that "with great power..." Bagley's art, while competent, is similarly uninspired. Still, it shines above the sorry excuse for a back-up: a forced narrative (Peter's class presentation) underpinned by a succession of artist try-outs, which screams "filler!". (KM) 4

Ultimate Spider-Man 29

by Bendis + Bagley; Panini UK

<+> The novelty of this title is wearing off, as it increasingly reads like *Dawson's Creek: The*

Comic. Bendis's skill is undeniable and there are good examples here. Yet, given it's two US issues reprinted per month, why does it still seem so... insubstantial? (KM) 5

Ultimate X-Men 14-15

by Millar & Bachalo; Panini UK

<+> A sidestep into the Ultimate War mini. Scott Bachalo's art is superior even to his previous Ultimate X-Men fill-in, imaginatively conveying both large scale and low-key events. On the strength of this, let's also hope Panini revises its opinion that The Ultimates is "too adult" for a UK audience... (KM) 8

Warhammer 81

by Scanlon + Stokes + Trevallion & various; Black Library

<-> Normally when I review this gritty Brit anthology I focus on the stories within. This time the applause goes to the creators themselves. There's the stunning work of Tiernen Trevallion, the strong, solid classic style of John Stokes, and the sensational stylings of The Sharp Brothers. Scripts are provided by already-proven talents Si Spurrier, James Peaty and Mitchel Scanlon. Along with lettering whiz, Fiona Stephenson, this title is in the safest of hands. (CEB) 7

Wolverine and Gambit 99

by various; Panini UK

<=> A rather tired *Contest of Champions* rehash, with weak visuals from yet more Image-inspired guest artists (Fraga and Rapmund). Hopefully, a brief hiccup in Tieri's otherwise solid scripting run. The Gambit/Bishop back-up delivers its strongest chapter with more detailed (finished) art from Nord and well-written interaction between the two protagonists. (KM) 6

Small Press

Armageddon Patrol 7

by Short & Prestwood; Alchemy Texts, 20 Grants Avenue Bournemouth BH1 4NR

<-> The decision to reveal the early days of Maiden America and her not-so-merry men brings much-needed insight into the ensemble cast. On guest art there's Stephen (Darkzone) Prestwood. A solid job, but one that would benefit from an increase in the ante. (CEB) 6

Armageddon Patrol: First Mission 1

by Short & Prestwood; Alchemy Texts, 20 Grants Avenue Bournemouth BH1 4NR

After various standalone specials, John A. Short begins the ongoing adventures of his mutants in the 'Nam series. Although again full of liberally used swear words, the fuller format allows for a little more depth to his previously shallow characters. Unfortunately, the comic is still hampered by the somewhat stiff composition and heavy linework of Stephen Prestwood. Still, next issue's previews look more promising. (MAT) 6

Dusk 1

by Starzecki + Richmond & Margetts; £4.99 from: Dead by Dawn 21 Balfour Road, Bristol B53 2AF

This looks to be about to put the fear of God into its competition. For a first issue, it is nicely produced, and you get a lot of pages for your money. It comes as no surprise, really, when you look at the creators involved: artists who've teased us with contributions to anthologies and exceptional convention sketches for years. Although each of the three strips is radically different, the art and writing is mature and intelligent in every case. The highlight is Richard Starzeckis' *Dreamless Sleep*. There are rough edges, of course, but for a first issue they are few and far between. There's a lot of potential here, and I hope this title lives up to its tantalising promise! (AS) 8

The O Men 24

by Eden; Ominous Comics, £1.50 from: M Eden, 19a Trevalyan Road, Tooting, London SW17 9LS

<=> We take a break from the main plotline as we drop in on the USAviors. This bold narrative choice so late in the game works surprisingly well, with Martin Eden using the more flashy American team to satirise superhero genre conventions. There's some fine character work and a couple of chilling moments to accompany all the fun. Eden's art is a little scrappier this issue, but still tells the story well. (KG) 8

Springheeled Jack 1

by Hitchcock; Black Boar Press Gunhills Farm Gunhills Lane, Windley DE56 2LR

Jack Rackham, sole confidante of Dr Jeckyll, desperately tries to tracks down Springheeled Jack, a demonic creature who abducted his wife. David Hitchcock's detailed art beautifully renders these dangerous Victorian streets; his images of foggy foreboding building on the powerful images of his previous Victoriana, Whitechapel Freak. His introduction to the central characters is crisply written – a feast for lovers of historical and mystery fiction – and though the plot may feel a little slow it is a strong, character-based set up for what should be a memorable series. (IM) 7

Hitchcock moves from one staple of Victorian pulp fiction to another, with his take on the renowned exploits of the light-heeled character. An obsessive recluse has designs on the kidnapper of his beloved wife, but may there be something more disturbing to the spate of disappearances than the ramblings of an unhinged mind? Hitchcock's unnervingly angled and detailed panels reveal he is as skilful a draftsman as inventive a writer for this impressive debut issue. (MAT) 8

www.incognitocomics.co.uk

INCOGNITO

You can also order from our FREE catalogue by e-mail, phone, fax or snail mail!

e: sales@incognitocomics.demon.co.uk

Incognito Comic Shop
1-2 The Friars, Canterbury,
Kent CT1 2AS Tel/fax: 01227 785898

21 YEARS PROVIDING THE BEST ADVANCE ORDER COMIC SERVICE IN EUROPE. THE ONLY QUESTION LEFT UNANSWERED IS,

WHY?

TO FIND OUT MORE PLEASE FILL IN THE FORM BELOW TO GET ONE OF OUR LEGENDARY FREE STARTER PACKS, OR VISIT OUR WEB-SITE AT WWW.ACECOMICS.CO.UK

ALSO CHECK OUT OUR ACE STORES IN:

HIGH STREET
COLCHESTER, ESSEX
01206 561912

VICTORIA PLAZA,
SOUTHEND, ESSEX
01702 613021

SHIPQUAY STREET
DERRY, N.IRELAND
02871 369787

ACE ADVANCE ORDER STARTER PACK

please send an advance order starter pack to me so I can find out more about ACE :

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

ACE thanks you for your interest and looks forward to your response.

SEND FORM TO : ACE, 63-64 HIGH STREET, COLCHESTER, ESSEX, CO1 1DN

www.goldenorbit.co.uk

COMIC MARTS

WITH SCI-FI & CARD SHOW

TOP DEALERS SELLING THOUSANDS OF COMICS, TRADING CARDS,
TV/FILM MAGAZINES, POSTERS, BOOKS, BEANIE BABIES,
TOYS, MODELS, GAMES & ALL KINDS OF SCI-FI/FANTASY MATERIAL!

BIRMINGHAM	**SATURDAYS: MAY 29th, JULY 17th, SEPTEMBER 11th** THE CLARENDON SUITES, HAGLEY ROAD, BIRMINGHAM
LEEDS	**SATURDAYS: JULY 3rd, AUGUST 14th, OCTOBER 2nd** LEEDS METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY, BRUNSWICK HALL, MERRION WAY
LIVERPOOL	**SUNDAY: JUNE 20th, AUGUST 8th** GLADSTONE HOTEL, LORD NELSON STREET, LIVERPOOL
MANCHESTER	**SATURDAYS: JUNE 19th, AUGUST 7th, SEPTEMBER 25th** SACHAS HOTEL, TIB STREET, PICCADILLY, MANCHESTER
NEWCASTLE	**SATURDAYS: JULY 10th, SEPTEMBER 24th, OCTOBER 16th** UNIVERSITY OF NORTHUMBRIA, STUDENTS' UNION BALLROOM, SANDYFORD ROAD, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE
NOTTINGHAM	**SATURDAYS: JUNE 26th, AUGUST 21st** VICTORIA LEISURE CENTRE, GEDLING STREET, NOTTINGHAM
SHEFFIELD	**SATURDAY: JULY 31st, OCTOBER 23rd** THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND, MAIN HALL, MAPPIN STREET (off West Street), SHEFFIELD *NEW VENUE!*

DEALERS: WRITE FOR INFORMATION PACK

SEND SAE FOR FULL DETAILS:- GOLDEN ORBIT, 18 OAK TREE WAY, STRENSALL, YORK Y032 5TF

E-MAIL: information@goldenorbit.co.uk

OPENS MIDDAY

Letters

CI, 345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ (editorial@comicsinternational.com)

Bristol, 2004

Martin Gray, 2FR, 1 Seaport Street, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6SJ

HOPE you guys got back from Bristol and the Comics Festival 2004 safely – it was a fun weekend, although the National Comic Awards was a let down.

What were we paying an extra £8.50 for on top of the regular ticket price? A rushed ceremony with gongs presented by whoever was nobbled in the Gents ten minutes previously, a band few of us have ever heard of and a slide show that gave new meaning to the word 'pointless'. And not so much as a bowl of nuts per table, the money apparently having gone to pay for said musical turn. Who really prefers a Norwegian rock-abilly band to a chicken supreme vol-au-vont?

I shan't bother with this again, not when there's free entertainment on offer from the young people of Bristol (OK, so it involves fighting and vomiting, but still, at least there's a diced carrot or two to be had).

And despite Rich Johnston's *Lying in the Gutters* relief at the lack of a costume contest, I'd kill for the fun of seeing just one more 12-year old Rorschach. There's nowt wrong with a bit of colourful fun for the younger set. (Mind, well done to Rich for using my Krypto and Strontium Dog gag in his column – bless!)

There were some good cheap comics around and the dealers were a friendly lot. You can never buy too many copies of Seventies **Supergirl, "**Choke – what's the use of being a Supergirl if I can't even get a date?"

Kudos to DC publicity wallah Bob Wayne, WildStorm editor Scott Dunbier and company for fielding questions so patiently – "Will DC be setting up its own film division?" "Er, DC is owned by Warner Bros," – but a slide show of upcoming projects and a few preview books would have been nice.

The UK is very much in the second best to the US cons in terms of breaking news – the Dave Gibbons exclusive announcement (yes Bob, I was cueing you in) was good news, but did little to banish the impression that **Wizard** decides when news is released. Oh, and I missed Patty Jeres.

Barry Kitson's enthusiasm for the **Legion of Super-Heroes** bodes well, mind – I'm looking forward to this hugely. How about a big **CI** plug for it?

A huge well done to **X-Men Unlimited** writer Tony Lee for managing to run an entertaining Marvel panel without star artist David Finch (something was muttered about "food poisoning") but really, it was a pretty shite showing from Marvel. Lee, **District X** writer David Hine, **Ultimate Elektra**'s Mike Carey and **New Echhhs Men** artist Staz Johnston did their best, but if Marvel US can't ensure it has a representative of editorial there who knows what's going on? They should lose the panel, or pay Rich Johnston a consultancy fee.

Actually, I know this is old farty, and I love Kev Sutherland to bits, but I really feel the panels programme lags behind those of the old UKCACs. UKCAC had a bigger organising committee and it seemed to work – perhaps more folk are needed to organise things here, as the variety of panels wasn't great and the running of them seemed a tad ad hoc/shambolic.

Never mind, good on Kev for mounting the event – just get tweaking, my man.

Interesting last point, Mart (not that the rest of your opinions were anything less). I felt a bit miffed myself over the events planning.

The first I knew of repeating my Comics Weakest Link *"show" again was when I read about it in the programme! Had I been asked, I'd probably have lobbied to do an underground panel, as Messrs Emerson, Talbot and Bennett (comix stalwarts all) were at the show and I'd have rather plugged my new book than been humour relief at an hour (7:30pm) when all sensible fans were boosting the hotel's bar profits.*

Maybe next time. ...Dez

Panel Beaten

Darren Clarke via e-mail: clarkecomics@hotmail.com

I READ your reply to Paul Scott's letter in **CI** #171 about *Panel Beaters* being dropped because of the small press's overall disinterest in promoting itself.

On my website (*http://kapow comics.mysite.freeserve.com*) I have a page dedicated to small press – tips and valuable lessons I have learned from my own projects.

The small press world is a strange beast, and I'm surprised that more readers weren't interested, as **CI** is a great platform to preach to the already-converted.

And so say all of us, Darren!

Libraries

Mark Badham-Moore via e-mail:

WITH regard to Andy Jones's letter in *Comment* (**CI** #170) about his local librarian's somewhat snobby opinion of comicbooks: Calm down, Andy, it's just one librarian...

I have to admit that I've been relatively lucky with my library encounters. Unfortunately I moved from Suffolk, where the purchase of recent releases of graphic novels across all genres was and still is a high priority, to Lincolnshire where they are only just latching onto the idea of 'Novel Graphics'.

I think it definitely helps if graphic novels have their own section in a library and not necessarily in the children's area. It's a slow and painful march not helped when the one page devoted to giving libraries direct feedback on what they should be purchasing is taken off-line.

Ho hum, you can't have everything, I suppose.

What's in a name?

Faiz Rehman via email: Faiz.Rehman@ThomsonLocal.com

AS I work for a directory company, Dez's "What's in a name?" editorial (**CI** #172) struck a nerve with me, although not quite along the lines mentioned.

Of course, you're quite right; no one would look under 'Q' in a phone book for a comic shop unless they knew the name was Quality Comics. They'd most likely look up the heading *Comics & Magazine Suppliers* and find what they're looking for.

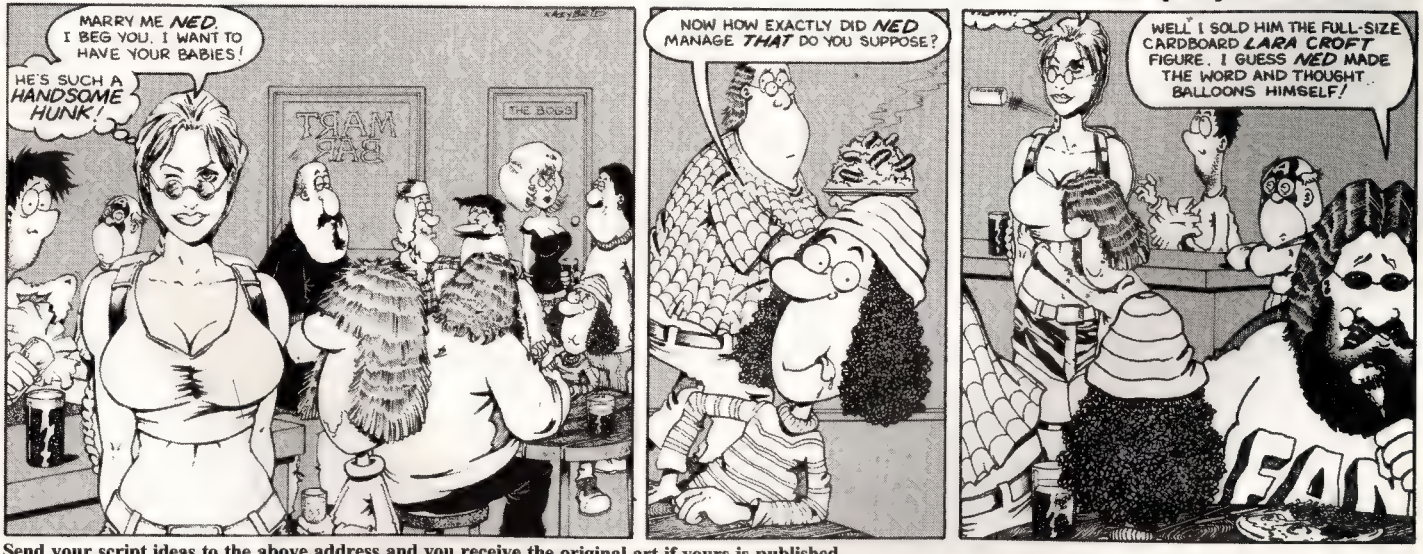
The problem is, not every comic shop I've looked for is listed under that heading. My local shop, for example, was listed under *Model Shops*. I only found out it existed because I saw one of its vans with Spider-Man and Superman whizzing around the town centre – that's over seven years of business they could have lost there!

The problem is that directories like the **Thomson Local** are not specialist publications and have space issues. So I'd encourage all comic shop owners to check that their free listing on *ThomsonLocal .com* is suitably classified (and while you're at it, check your listing at the distinguished competitor's site, too).

Make sure you get your website and e-mail address noted – I'll be activating this for all listings (as opposed to just the advertisers) very shortly. I've also been trying

Mike Kazybrid's COMIC CUTS

Script by Paul Kristian


MARRY ME NED. I BEG YOU. I WANT TO HAVE YOUR BABIES!
HE'S SUCH A HANDSOME HUNK!
THE BOGS
NOW HOW EXACTLY DID NED MANAGE THAT DO YOU SUPPOSE?
WELL I SOLD HIM THE FULL-SIZE CARDBOARD LARA CROFT FIGURE. I GUESS NED MADE THE WORD AND THOUGHT BALLOONS HIMSELF!
FAN

Send your script ideas to the above address and you receive the original art if yours is published.

Please note: All scripts are submitted on the understanding they become the copyright property of Kazybrid, Skinn and Comics International.

to set up some heading synonyms to capture other words that people may use when looking for comics – I've not yet got around to **Giant Size Man Thing**, but see where entering *Dez Skinn* in the 'What?' box takes you.

...And the end product is you find more than 20 shops which don't spend a mere £6 a month to be in our own listings.

Nice one, Faiz. Must get an advertising letter out to them!

What's in a name 2

Stephen L. Holland,
Page 45, Nottingham

CONGRATULATIONS on the **Comix: The Underground Revolution** hardcover – eloquent, easily digested and with the all-important grounding in social, political and economic context. Has someone reviewed it for **CI** yet? I know there's a certain conflict of interest, but you could as least quote the **Guardian Guide**'s unequivocal thumbs-up.

Do you think I've been unctuous enough now to courteously disagree with your latest editorial?

Firstly, 'Scion' has at least two meanings: 1) a younger member of a royal family and 2) a shoot of a plant cut for grafting. Both those definitions fit the CrossGen comic to perfection. I don't know whether the second was pure serendipity, but what a happy accident!

Closer to home, you expressed the logical opinion that "if you're opening a comic shop, make 'comics' the first word of the name". I take all of your reasoning on board and I would normally agree, except that comics are a different prospect from other media.

If we'd put 'comics' in our name, all we'd have done is stolen customers already reading comics from other comics shops – which is just bad manners.

We deliberately kept the word 'comics' from our name, because most people walking down the street believe that a comicbook has nothing to offer them.

They've never seen a comic that could possibly do anything for them, so if they see a sign saying 'comics', they will almost certainly decide that it's one less shop they need to visit.

Our strategy has always been to avoid that mental blacklist, lure new people in and then surprise them by bringing them into contact with comics they didn't know existed, but are perfect for their tastes.

We do run the risk that those looking for comics miss us (although we do offer a subtle clue with our logo – check out the advert somewhere in these pages). However, the risk of missing the 1% of the population who currently read comics is, to my mind, outweighed by the prospect of converting the other 99% who, on average and collectively, have 99 times more money on them.

Sorry if that sounds mercenary. I call it progressive.

Return of The League of Extraordinary Sunglasses

"Mad" Steven Morrell via e-mail: address withheld by request

LOVED the Nick, pp Mr Tea, remarks *[Letters*, **CI** #172] about your news editor/Frame to Frame columnist Mike Conroy being a made-up character, in the mold of Captain Mainwaring.

Looking at the Ref B image you ran, the spooky thing is that "Mike Mainwaring" also looks like singer Roger *(I'm Going to Leave old Durham Town)* Whittaker!

...Well spotted! Good old Roger was, of course, another element of the "Mike Conroy" creation [see Fig 2, above]. We had planned running with the Fig 1 visual [above, left], but felt the combination of shades 'n' smile was too much for our sensitive readers. In fact, we even experimented with a short-haired look [Fig 3], but who would believe such a dude wouldn't have crashed and burned in the Sixties.

Now enough of this childishness, let's get back to the grown-up stuff... comics!

PS: I'm very much looking forward to Paul Gravett's **Manga: 60 Years of Japanese Comics**, due out in July. That's three of you with a book out in the last couple of years (Mike Conroy released **500 Great Comicbook Action Heroes** in 2002 – reviewed with a big thumbs up in the Page 45 mailshots long before I could be accused of vested interests that some might suppose come with being a part of this team).

Oh, and Rich Johnston now has his own comic, damn him (Avatar's **Holed Up**). Hey, Biff, d'you fancy teaming up? We're looking like total losers here!

***Comix** review? See page 52 this issue. About time as it's been popping up everywhere (100% favourable to date), from such lifestyle mags as **Arena**, **Jack**, **Dazed & Confused** and **Ice** to music mags like **Uncut** and **Record Collector**, newspapers including **The Guardian** and **The Independent** and radio. In fact, it's radio I've been most chuffed about. Forget Radio 4's* Start the Week *and* The Today Programme, *I even got back to my roots with a 20-minute live chat on Radio Humberside. Yay, Goole!*

I was asked recently why I chose such an obscure part of comics history for my first book. I think the above name-dropping answers that. Something about reaching the parts superheroes cannot reach...

Setting things straight

Jamie Boardman,
graphic novels editor, Rebellion

I WAS pleased to see that you mentioned our deal with DC Comics in **CI** #172. However, there are a few points I should clarify.

The terms of the deal are that DC has North American reprint rights, not NA rights, as stated – there are no current plans for original **2000 AD** material from DC.

We won't be producing hardcover editions of the material we're publishing with DC – those books will be in the same format as DC is using. That format is not standard US trade paperback size as stated, but rather the same format DC is using for the Humanoids titles (258 x 187mm), which is proportional to our assorted page sizes over the years.

We will, however, continue to produce European-style hardbacks of some of our recent and shorter material, with **Atavar**, **Bison** and **Wardog** scheduled for July, August and September respectively. Watch this space for more details!

Cheers, and long may your quality magazine continue!

Price points

Richard Domar
9 Highlands Road
Wolverhampton WV3 8AH

I'VE recently noticed that Marvel books are all 32 pages but cover prices are $2.25 to $2.99. How can it can justify this discrepancy?

I've made a sad and difficult decision that titles like **Thor**, **Iron Man**, **Captain America** are now off my monthly orders. **Avengers** might also go, although I'd like to see how Brian Michael Bendis fares. I'll cease other titles over the next few months and almost certainly become more choosy in my monthly buying.

I say it's sad because I've read almost every issue of the books I'm stopping. I'll probably regret it, but at least I'm stopping at the end of each story arc, that I can live with.

As a PS, it was nice to see some comics had letter pages recently but I believe it was a superficial gesture and the page was included by mistake. If they really cared, we'd see letters in all the books.

Novel Graphics

Steve Field, Bromley, Kent

I ALWAYS note *Novel Graphics* as my least favourite when entering competitions, but we do need a feature page for these.

Would it be possible, instead, to have a monthly *Advance Listings* for graphic novels and trade reprints, with a little bit about them for a selected few? You can leave the Marvel and DC trades where they are if it's easier, but there are many you don't list; Titan and Rebellion to name two.

While I'm on the subject, you said in **CI** #172 that DC has soft-cover rights to Rebellion's work Will they be available here? Or will we have to buy the UK hardcovers?

At least you tried...

Paul Scott, Solar Wind Comic,
13 Kiln Crescent, Bishop Middleham,
Ferryhill, County Durham DL17 9AP

IT WAS nice to drunkenly say thanks to Dez for our space in *Panel Beaters*. I'm sorry that it didn't work out, but you tried.

That's all any of us can do.

Paying for quality

Pete Sidebotham, Congleton, Cheshire

I WAS utterly bowled over by the two-page spread advertising the Don Lawrence Collection, but my heart sank when I saw the price of each volume; the most I've ever spent on a book is around £30.

The chance to finally own a series of good quality books by a true legend in the comics field has been snatched from my grasp, due to the price and availability.

Hopefully a cheaper hardback format fill follow at a later date (ie Dan Dare for £12.99!) as I cannot afford these gems, on my budget.

I do, however, wish Quality every success in its continuing endeavour to offer up quality books on the comics medium.

Our role is all about making the public aware of what's out there, imported or home grown. Hence this month's mini-catalogue, Pete.

Directory

An at-a-glance reference guide to everything that counts in comics

Internet Listings

Comics creators

Jessica Abel ..... www.artbabe.com
Neal Adams ..... www.nealadams.com
Kyle Baker ..... www.kylebaker.com
Leo Baxendale ..... www.reaper.co.uk/main.htm
Brian Bolland Art ..... www.velouria.com/Bolland
Mark Bright ..... www.mdbright.com
Eddie Campbell ..... www.eddiecampbellcomics.com
John Cassaday ..... www.johncassaday.com
Gene Colan ..... www.genecolan.com
Chuck Dixon ..... www.dixonverse.com
Will Eisner ..... www.willeisner.tripod.com
Warren Ellis ..... www.warrenellis.com
Phil Foglio ..... www.studiofoglio.com
Jon Haward ..... www.jonhawardart.com
Jeff Jones ..... www.jeffreyjones.com
Bob Layton ..... www.boblayton.com
Joseph Michael Linsner ..... www.linsner.com
Tom Lyle ..... www.tomlyle.com
Scott McCloud ..... www.scottmcloud.com
Grant Morrison ..... www.grant-morrison.com
Alex Ross Art ..... www.alexrossart.com
Dave Stevens ..... www.davestevens.com
William Stout ..... www.williamstout.com
Bryan Talbot ..... www.bryan-talbot.com
Barry Windsor-Smith .. www.barrywindsor-smith.com
Bernie Wrightson ..... www.berniewrightson.com

Comics publishers

Abstract Studios ..... www.strangersinparadise.com
AC Comics ..... www.accomics.com
Acclaim ..... ww.acclaim.com/comics
AiT/Planet Lar ..... www.astronautsintrouble.com
Antarctic Press ..... www.antarctic-press.com
Archie Comic Publications ... www.archiecomics.com
Caliber Comics ..... www.calibercomics.com
Cartoon Books ..... www.boneville.com
Chaos! ..... www.chaoscomics.com
Cool Beans World ..... www.coolbeansworld.com
com.x ..... www.comxcomics.com
CrossGen ..... www.crossgen.com
Crusade Entertainment ..... www.shiweb.com
Dark Horse ..... www.darkhorse.com
DC Comics ..... www.dccomics.com
Drawn and Quarterly ..... www.drawnandquarterly.com
Dynamic Forces ..... www.dynamicforces.com
Fantagraphics ..... www.fantagraphics.com
Harris Comics ..... www.vampirella.com
Heavy Metal ..... www.heavymetal.com
Knockabout Comics ..... www.knockabout.com
Marvel Comics ..... www.marvel.com
Northern Lightz ..... www.northernlightz.com
Oni Press ..... www.onipress.com
Quality/Warrior ..... www.comicsinternational.com
Sirius Entertainment www.sirius.choiceoneonline.com
Todd McFarlane Productions ..... www.spawn.com
Top Cow Comics ..... www.topcow.com
TwoMorrows ..... www.twomorrows.com
2000 AD www.2000ADonline.com
Viz (USA) ..... www.viz.com
Viz (UK) ..... www.viz.co.uk
WildStorm Comics ..... www.wildstorm.com

Manga and anime

AD Vision ..... www.advfilms.com
MVM ..... www.mvm-uk.co.uk

Downloadable software

PANELSYS
The ultimate panelologist's database system for organising your prized collection! Take a free trial today ..... www.panelsys.com

On-line auctions

COMIC BOOK POSTAL AUCTIONS
Ten successful years specialising in Golden & Silver Age, artwork and vintage UK comics.
..... www.compalcomics.com

eBay ..... www.ebay.co.uk
Heritage Comics Auctions . www.heritagecomics.com

NEAR MINT
The newest truly online auction system, dedicated to the collectible marketplace.
..... www.near-mint.com

Fantasy art and books

THE DRAGONS GALLERY
'Shop online' for original comic art, lithos, manga, fantasy and gothic art.
..... www.thedragonsgallery.co.uk

Festivals and fairs

Amadora Festival (Portugal) ... www.bdamadora.com
Angouleme BD (France) ..... www.bdangouleme.com
Comic-Con International (San Diego, USA)
..... www.comic-con.org
Megacon (Florida, USA) ... www.megaconvention.com
Raptus International Festival (Norway) www.raptus.no
Scottish Comic, Card & Collectables Fair
..... e-mail: marts@redhotcomics.demon.co.uk
Wizard World (Chicago, USA) www.wizarduniverse.com

New and back issue dealers

Ace Comics ..... www.acecomics.net
Avalon Comics ..... www.avaloncomics.co.uk
Black Dog Comics ..... www.blackdog-comics.com

CHAOS CITY COMICS
Award-winning site. High grade Silver Age items and Dave Gibbons original art
..... www.chaoscitycomics.com

COMIC BIZ
"Britain's favourite comic-book company" Over 250,000 items for sale
..... www.comic-biz.com

Comics 24-7 Limited www.comics24-7.co.uk
Comics & Collectables www.comicsandcollectables.co.uk
Comics Forever ..... www.comicsforever.com

COMIX-SHOP.CO.UK
Hot comics, new imports, fast service, nice prices... Go on – Take a peek.
..... www.comix-shop.co.uk

EPIC HEROES
Comics, toys, DVDS, posters, games, CCG. All available to order online. Next day delivery ..... www.epicheroes.com

GOLDUST COMICS
Fantastic range of Golden, Silver and Bronze Age comics on our easy-to-use website.
..... www.goldustcomics.com

INCOGNITO
Access over 500,000 comics on the UK's fastest and funkiest comics website.
....www.incognitocomics.co.uk

Krypton Komics ..... www.kryptonkomics.com

MEGA-CITY COMICS
Largest graphic novel catalogue in the country – fast and easy online shopping.
..... www.megacitycomics.co.uk

Mighty World of Comicana ..... www.comicana.com

OBSCURE COMICS
For those comics that you can't find anywhere. Cheap too!
..... www.obscurecomics.com

Page 45 ..... www.page45.com

QUICKSILVER COMICS
The specialist Silver and Bronze Age site. Over 100,000 items listed, all with cover images ..... www.qscomics.com

SILVER ACRE COMICS
Over 900,000 comics in stock, 110,000 different items listed online.
....www.silveracre.com

Speeding Bullet ..... www.speedingbulletcomics.co.uk

On-line comics companies:

By popular demand, **Comics International** now runs an at-a-glance overview of the major sites for on-line comics collectors and creators. Have your company listed for only £5 (US $8) a month. Bookable in six-issue blocks, companies wishing to be included should send £30 or US $40 (UK: please add £5.25 to cover VAT) with trading name and website address.

♦ Major companies requiring bold and boxed entries should send £60 + £10.50 VAT per six-issue series, US $80 (£10/$16 per issue) and may add three lines of descriptive copy. Cheques and international money orders should be made payable to Comics International and sent to:
Comics International, 345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ
Alternatively, payment can be made by credit card, fax: 0(11 44) 1273 566 333 or e-mail details to: comicsinternational@yahoo.co.uk

Retail Index: UK

Key to the abbreviations used:

imp = air imported new issues
back = back issues stocked
gn = graphic novels
tpbk = trade paperbacks
STO = standing order service (new comics reserved)
s-p = small press and fanzines
ind = independent comics
u/g = underground comix
prl = peripherals/supplies
RPG = role playing games
CCG = customisable card games
merch = trading cards, videos, t-shirts, posters, etc

Sorry, no websites, this is a shop guide

When telephoning from outside the UK, drop the first 0 and replace with: 01144 (USA); 0044 (mainland Europe & Eire); 001144 (Australasia).

Central London

Avalon Comics, 143 Lavender Hill, Battersea, London SW11 5QJ. Mon-Thurs 10-5.45; Fri 10-6.30; Sat 9.30-5.30; Sun 11-3.30 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, CCG, merch) 020 7924 3609

Book & Comic Exchange, 14 Pembridge Road, Notting Hill Gate, London W11. Mon-Sun 10-8. Nothing legal refused! (back, ind, u/g) 020 7229 8420

Comic Showcase 63 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0NE. Sun-Wed 10-7; Thurs-Fri 10-8; Sat 9.30-8 (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, cartoon books, original art) 020 7434 4349

Forbidden Planet Megastore, 179 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8JR. Mon-Sat 9.30-7; Sun 12-6 (imp, back, gn, STO, s-p, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, sci-fi/fantasy, books, video/DVD, games, mags, toys) 020 7420 3666

Gosh!, 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PH (opposite British Museum). Mon-Sun 10-6 (Thurs-Fri to 7) (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, foreign, largest range newspaper strip compilations in UK) 020 7636 1011

Mega-City Comics, 18 Inverness Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ. Mon-Sun 10-6 (Thurs-Fri to 7) (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV, fantasy/horror, body art, subculture) 020 7485 9320

Mighty World of Comicana, 237 Shaftsbury Avenue, London WC2H 8EH. Mon-Wed 10.30-6.30; Thurs-Sat 10-7; Sun 10-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, film/TV/fantasy) 020 7836 5630

Orbital, 9 Old Compton Street, London W1. Mon-Sat 10.30-7; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, gn, STO, manga, toys, Star Wars) 020 7434 9363

Outer London

A Place in Space, 101 Church Street, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1RN. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, prl, merch, sci-fi, original art) 020 8686 2400

Ashcan Ltd, 3 Eagle Star House, 299-301 High Street, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1LG. Tues-Wed/Fri 12-5; Thurs 9-6; Sat 10-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch) 0845 166 2532

Atomic Comics, 1112 High Road, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex RM6 4AH. Mon-Tues 10.30-5.30; Wed 1-5.30; Thurs-Fri 10.30-6; Sat 10-6 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, u/g, prl, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV, art books, Games Workshop, toys, kits) 020 8597 8547

Calamity Comics, 160 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2HR. Mon-Wed 10-6, (Thurs-Fri to 7); Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, fantasy film/TV, books, videos) 020 8427 3831

Epic Heroes, 21/23 Station Road, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 7JE. Mon-Sat 10-6. (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, RPG, CCG, merch, toys, posters, Transformers) 020 8952 7181

Forbidden Planet, 175 North End, Croydon CR0 1TP. Mon-Fri 10-6 (Thursday to 7); Sat 9.30-6. (back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, u/g, CCG, merch) 020 8688 7190

Into the Void, 262 Streatham High Road, Streatham SW16 1HS. Mon-Sat 9.30-7; Sun 11-3. (imp, back, STO, merch, toys) 020 8677 7037

Krypton Komics, 252 High Road, Tottenham, London N15 4AJ (next to Tesco) Tues-Wed 11-6; Thurs 10.30-7; Fri 10.30-6; Sat 10-6 Nearest Tube: Seven Sisters Road. (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind) 020 8801 5378 fax: 8376 3174

They Walk Among Us, 26 Red Lion Street, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1RW. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (Thurs to 6); Sun 11-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, fantasy/sci-fi/horror, subculture) tel/fax: 020 8948 8476

30th Century Comics, 18 Lower Richmond Road, London SW15 1JP. Mon-Wed 10.30-6; Thurs-Fri 10.30-7; Sat 10.30-6; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, Gold/Silver/Bronze Age specialists, British comics/annuals, books) 020 8788 2052

South East

Ace Comics, 63/64 High Street, Colchester, Essex. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch) 01206 561912

The American Comic Shop, 1 Church Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 4BS (off High Street). Mon-Fri 10-5.30 (Tues until 5); Sat 9-5.30. (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, action figures) 01634 817410

Calamity Comics 2, 90 Queens Road, The Broadway, Watford WD1 2LA. Mon-Tues 10-5.30; Thurs/Fri 10-7; Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, fantasy film/TV, books, videos) 01923 249293

Cartoon Shop, 19 East Square, Basildon, Essex SS14 1HT. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, RPG, merch) 01268 534194

Central City Comics, 4 Eagle Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1JB. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, foreign) 01473 233017

Chaos City, 20 Heritage Close, (off High Street), St Albans, Herts AL3 4EB. Mon-Thurs 10-5.30; Fri 10-7.30; Sat 9-5.30; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, RPG, CCG, merch) 01727 838719

Comic Showcase, 19-20 St Clements Street, Oxford OX4 1AB. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 01865 723680

Comix-shop.co.uk, 7a High Street, Maidenhead SL6 1JN. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, tpbk, gn, merch, CCG, toys) 01628 777998

David's Comic Shop, 5 Sydney Street, Brighton, Sussex BN1 4EN. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.45; Sun 11-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g) 01273 691012

Daydream Nation Trading Cards at Hive, 6 Kensington Gardens, Brighton BN1 4AL. Mon-Sat 10-6 (CCGs, cards, sports, Ultra-Pro) 01273 687 877

Forbidden Planet, 60 Burleigh Street, Cambridge CB1 1DJ. Mon-Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, CCG, merch, videos, sci-fi/fantasy books, film/TV magazines) 01223 301666

Forbidden Planet, 44 The Priory Centre, Dartford, Kent DA1 2HS. Mon-Wed 10.30-5.30; Thurs-Sat 10-5.30 (back, gn, ind, PRG, CCG, merch) 01322 224837

Incognito Comic Shop, 1-2 The Friars, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2AS. Mon-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5.30; Sun 11-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, film/TV) tel/fax: 01227 785898

Off World: The Sci-Fi Store, 142 Market Halls, Arndale Centre, Luton LU1 2TP. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, STO, s-p, CCG, merch, Star Trek/Wars, sci-fi collectables) 01582 736256

Planet Ace, 324-325 Chartwell North, Top Floor, Victoria Plaza, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 5SR. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch) 01702 613021

Steve's Comics, The Bookstall, Beckenham Junction Station, Rectory Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1HY. Mon-Fri 6-7; Sat 7-5 (back – Marvel, DC – ind, British comics, tpbk) 07977 751442

Slough Computers, 50 Village Shopping Centre, Slough, Berks SL1 1HP. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, STO, ind, cards, second hand computer games) 01753 521594

Time Trek, 46 High Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1EG. Mon-Wed/Fri 9.30-5.30; Thurs 10-8; Sat 10-5.30; Sun 10-4 (imp, back, ind, gn, merch, STO, CCG, prl, sf TV/film) 020 8313 0677

Whatever Comics, 2 Burgate Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2HH. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, kits) 01227 453226

Whatever Comics, 5 Middle Row, High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1TF. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, model kits) 01622 681041

Midlands

Abstract Sprocket, 29 St Benedicts Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 4PF. Mon-Sat 10-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 01603 624410

Another World, 42/43 Main Centre (opposite Wilkinsons) Derby. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30; Sat 9-5.30; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, merch, rock/film/TV memorabilia, computer games) 01332 206606

Another World, 23 Silver Street, Leicester LE1 5EU. Mon-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5.30; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, foreign, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 01162 515266

Another World, 11 Market Street, Nottingham. Mon-Fri 9-5.30; Sat 9.30-5.30; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, foreign, rock memorabilia, alchemy metalware) 0115 9484122

Another World, 52 Stafford Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 1JB. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30; Sat 9-5.30; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, rock memorabilia, alchemy metalware) 01782 279294 fax: 202381

Another World, 23 Victoria Street, Wolverhampton WV1 3NP. Mon-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5.30; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, rock memorabilia, alchemy metalware) 01902 717440

Comic Culture, The Mall, 257-259 High Street, Lincoln LN2 1HX. Mon-Fri 10-5; Sat 9-5 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, prl) 01522 546611

Forbidden Planet, 31 Cross Cheaping, Coventry CV1 1HF. Mon-Sat 9.30-6 (Thurs to 7) (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV) 02476 229672

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 129 Middle Walk, Broadmarsh Centre, Nottingham NG1 7LN. Mon-Sat 9-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV) 0115 958 4706

Forbidden Planet Superstore, 38 Priory Queensway, Birmingham B4 7LA. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (Thurs-Fri to 6) (imp, back, gn, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, books, games, mags, kits, toys, videos) 0121 236 3026

Ground Zero, 9 Toothill Lane, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG18 1NJ. Mon-Sat 9-5 (imp, back, STO, prl, CCG, merch, toys) 01623 622017

Nostalgia & Comics (FPI), 14-16 Smallbrook, Queensway, Birmingham. Mon-Thurs 9.15-5.45; Fri-Sat 9.15-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 0121 643 0143

Page 45, 9 Market Street, Nottingham NG1 6HY. Mon-Sat 9-6. (imp, back, gn, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, manga) 0115 950 8045

Phoenix Comix, 29 Abington Square, Northampton NN1 4AE. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, RPG, CCG, action figures) 01604 602311

Travelling Man, c/o Gamestation, 1st Floor, 6 East Street, Derby DE1. Mon-Sat 9-5 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, prl, RPG, CCG, merch, action figures, fantasy books, film/TV) 0115 950 9231

Travelling Man, c/o Gamestation, 1st Floor, 16 Angel Row, Nottingham NG1 6HL. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, action figures, miniatures) 0115 950 9231

North West

All-American, 102 Newport Street, Bolton BL3 6AB. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, gn, STO, merch, Star Wars, WWF, action figures, S/Age, videos, records, CDs) 01204 366553

Alpha Omega Comics, 33-35 Library Street, Wigan, Lancs WN1 1NN. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, back, STO, merch, videos) 07796 854644

NEW **Batcave**, 39 Penny Street, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 6HQ. Mon-Sat 10-5 (imp, back, gn, STO, RPG, CCG, merch) 01254 667488

Forbidden Planet, 92 Bold Street, Liverpool L1 4HY. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (Thurs to 7) (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV, sci-fi/horror) 0151 707 1491

Forbidden Planet Megastore (FPI), 65 Oldham Street, Piccadilly, Manchester M1 1JR. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30; Sun 12-5 (2 floors; imp, back, STO, RPG, CCG, merch, books, toys, film and TV tie-ins, manga) 0161 839 4777

Imagination Station, 41 Bank Street, Carlisle, Cumbria CA3 8HJ. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch)

Millennium Comics, 4 Church Road, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 5NT. Mon-Tues 10-5; Wed closed; Thurs-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, RPG, merch, action figures, toys) 01606 49255

Moonwalk Collectables, Unit 15, Climax Works, Durham Street (off Station Road), North Redditch SK5 6YZ. Mon-Sat 10-6 (back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, merch, Star Wars and Doctor Who specialist, TV/film, British titles) 0161 431 6050

Thunderbooks, 332 Lytham Road, Blackpool, Lancashire FY4 1DW. Mon/Tues/Thurs-Sat (Sundays in June-Oct only) 10-5.30; Wed 1-3.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, media collectors' items) 01253 348321 fax: 407813

Thunderbooks II, 116 Friargate, Preston, Lancashire PR1 9EE. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, RPG, merch) 01772 204287

Time Tunnel, 13 Earle Street, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 2BS. Mon and Wed-Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, merch, film/TV memorabilia, action figures, videos, model kits) 01270 215496

Worlds Apart (FPI), 58-60 Lime Street (city centre), Liverpool. Mon-Sat 10-6 (Fri 10-7) (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, film) 0151 707 0839

North East

Books 'N' Comics, Unit 15, Forbes Building, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS1 4AW. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, merch, fantasy and film magazines, Doctor Who/Star Trek) 01642 249143

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 30 Eastgate, The Headrow, Leeds LS2 7JL. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, LF film books, film/TV mags, posters, toys, kits, trading cards, stills, Star Trek/Doctor Who) 0113 242 6325

Forbidden Planet, 59 Grainger Street, Newcastle NE1 5JE. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV mags, fantasy/sci-fi books, videos) 0191 261 9173

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 41 Dundas Street, Middlesbrough TS1 1HR. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (Thurs until 7) (imp, gn, s-p, STO, ind, u/g, prl, RPG, CCG, merch, video, action figures, film/TV, manga) 01642 248889

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 12 Matilda, off the Moor, Sheffield. Mon-Fri 10-5; Sat 9.30- 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, original art, model kits, sci-fi/fantasy books, horror magazines, newspaper strip books) 0114 276 9475

The Last Picture Show, 38-39 The Lanes, The Oasis, Meadowhall Centre, Sheffield S9 1EP. Mon-Thurs 10-8; Fri 10-9; Sat 9-7, Sun 11-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV and rock memorabilia) 0114 256 9604 fax: 255 3399

Millennium Comics, Stall 141, Warrington Indoor Market. Mon-Sat 9-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, RPG, merch, action figures, toys) 01925 575657

Off-World Comics, 200 Park View, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE26 3QP. Mon-Tues/Thurs 10-5.30 (closed Wed); Fri 10-6; Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, CCG, merch) 0191 251 2288

Sheffield Space Centre, 33 The Wicker, Sheffield. Mon-Sat 10-5 (Wed closed) (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, merch, Star Trek specialists) 0114 275 8905

Travelling Man, Unit 8/9, The Corn Exchange, Call Lane, Leeds LS1 7BR. Mon-Thurs 10-5.30; Fri-Sat 9-5.30; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, action figures) 0113 242 7227

Travelling Man, 54 Goodramgate, York YO1 2LF. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG,

merch, action figures) 01904 628787

West Country

American Dream Comics, 72 Walcot Street, Bath BA1 5BD. Mon-Fri 10-5; Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, original art, hobby kits, CDs) 01225 424881

Area 51, 143 Gloucester Road, Bristol. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, original art) 0117 924 4655

Automattic Comics, Unit 2, 17 Pickwick Road, Corsham SN13 9BQ. Mon-Tues 12-5; (Wed closed); Thurs-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 01249 701647

Collector's Choice, 45 Southgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1TX. Mon-Sat 9-5 (S/Age, British comics/annuals, vintage mags, toys, memorabilia) 01452 410232

Fantasyland Comics, Unit 4, The Colwell Centre, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 8NJ. Mon-Fri 11-5; Sat 10-5 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch)

Forbidden Planet, 30 Penn Street, Bristol BS1 3AS. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30 (Thurs to 7); Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV mags, subculture) 0117 929 8692

Forbidden Planet, 43-45 East Street, Southampton SO14 3HN. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30 (Thurs to 6); Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV) 023 80230991 fax: 230996

Ian's Books & Comics, 195a Albert Road, Southsea, Portsmouth PO4 0JP (next to Tesco). Mon-Tues/Thurs-Fri 10.30-5.15 (Wed closed); Sat 10-5.15 (imp, back, tpbk, STO, s-p, prl, toys) 023 92422731

Into the Void, 11 Rodbourne Road, Swindon SN2 2AG. Mon-Sat 9-5 (imp, back, STO, CCG, merch) 01793 434363

Kaboom, 65 High Street, Totnes, Devon TQ10 9PU. (new, back, action figures, t-shirts, board games, RPG, import computer games, mail order) 01803 863049

Kathies Comics, Unit BG29, Broadmead Gallery, The Galleries Shopping Centre, Bristol BS1 3XB. Mon-Wed/Fri-Sat 9-5.30; Thurs 9-6; Sun 11-5.30 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, CCG, merch) 0117 922 1170

Kathies Comics, 20 Market Avenue, Plymouth, PL1 1PH. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30; Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, CCG, merch) 01752 257800

Paradox Comics, 17 High Street, Poole, Dorset BH15 1AB. Mon-Fri 10.30-5; Sat 10-5 (imp, back, gn, STO, ind, merch, videos) 01202 661346

Wonderworld, 540 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset. Mon-Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, CCG, merch, film/TV/media, beanie babies) 01202 394918

Wales

Cardiff's Comic Guru Presents!, 20-22 Wyndham Arcade, Cardiff CF10 1FJ. Mon-Sat 10-6 (Thurs 'til 9) (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, prl, CCG, merch) 029 202 29119

Cardiff Fantasy Centre, 1st Floor, Jacobs Market, West Canal Wharf, Cardiff. Sat 9.30-4.30 (imp, back, STO; established over 20 years) 029 206 58184 (eves)

Comix Shoppe, 13 Shoppers Walk, Swansea SA1 3AY. Mon-Fri 10-5; Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, CCG, merch, anime, Games Workshop) 01792 642097

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 5 Duke St, Cardiff. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, sci-fi fantasy/horror books, Star Trek/Wars) 029 202 28885

Negative Zone, Provision Market Gallery, High Street, Newport, Gwent NP9 1DD. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, back, gn, STO, s-p, ind; established for 12 years) 01633 222159

Scotland

Asylum Books & Games, 29 Adelphi, Aberdeen AB11 5B2. Mon-Sat 10-6 (Mon/Thurs to 8); Sun 12-5 (imp, back, STO, new/second hand RPG, CCG, books, original art) 01224 574637

Black Hole Comic Shop, Unit 3, 5 Victoria Road, Dundee DD1 1ER. Mon-Thurs 10-5; Fri-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, second hand records, CDs, videos) 01382 221037

City Centre Comics, 51 Parnie Street, Glasgow G1 5LU. Tues-Sat 10-5 (back) 0141 552 2208

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 12 Schoolhill, Aberdeen AB10 1JX. Mon-Fri 10-6 (Thurs until 7); Sat 9.30-5.30; Sun 12-5 (imp, gn, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, prl, CCG, merch) 01224 622131

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 40-41 South Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1LL. Mon-Wed 10-5.30; Thurs 10-6.30; Fri-Sat 10-5.30; Sun 12-5. (imp, STO, s-p, ind, merch, foreign) 0131 558 8226

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 168 Buchanan St, Glasgow G1 2LW. Mon-Sat 10-5.30; Sun 12-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 0141 331 1215

Justice Comics, Unit 36, The Arcade, Stirling FK8 1AX. Mon-Sat 10-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch) 01786 447687

Kapow!, 28 Allison Street, Govanhill, Glasgow G42 8NN (off Pollokshaws Road). Tues-Sat 11-6 (buy and sell back, gn, ind, mags, videos, DVDs, new and second-hand books, merch) 0141 4241600

Plan 9, 9 Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen AB25 1NE. Mon-Sat 10-5 (Thurs to 6); Sun 1-4. (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, WWF, merch, sci-fi) tel/fax: 01224 624467

Red Hot Comics, Block D Unit 7, Glenwood Business Park, Glenwood Place, Glasgow G45 9UH. Sat 11.30-6; Sun 12-5 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, CCG, merch) 0141 630 0049

Northern Ireland

Crosshatch, Unit 8, Smithfield Market, Belfast BT1 1JD. Mon-Fri 10-5; Sat 10-5.30 (original art, prints, autographs, cover recreations) 07739 871415

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 47 Winetavern Street, Belfast BT1 1JQ Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch) 028 90438744

Planet Ace Derry, 33 Shipquat St, Derry, Londonderry BT48 6DF. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, RPG, CCG, merch) 02871 369787

Retail Index: USA

When telephoning from outside the USA, include the bracketed 00. Out-of-town US calls begin with the 1 prefix only. The following is a fraction of the estimated 3,000+ US comics stores.

Alabama

Optic Nerve, 1930 12th Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35205 (film, newsstand, ind) (00)1 205 933 2787

Alaska

Bosco's in Spenard, 2606 Spenard Road, Anchorage 99503. Mon-Sat 11-8, Sun 12-6 (new, back, CCG, RPG, cards, anime, merch) (00) 1 907 274 4112

Bosco's Diamond Centre, 800 East Diamond Boulevard, Anchorage 99577. Mon-Fri 10-9; Sat 10-6; Sun 12-5 (new, back, CCG, RPG, cards, anime, games, Star Wars/Trek) (00) 1 907 344 3963

Bosco's in Eagle River, 11432 Business Boulevard, Eagle River. Mon-Sat 12-8, Sun 12-5 (new, back, CCG, RPG, cards, merch) (00) 1 907 696 5166

Arizona

Lost Dutchman, 747 West Camelback Road, Phoenix, AZ 85013. Mon-Sun 10-7. (new, back) (00)1 619 278 0371

California

Comickaze, 5525 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, San Diego, CA 62117-2342. Mon-Fri 11-7; Sat 11-6; Sun 12-6 (new, back, CCG, merch)(00)1 858 278 0371

Comix Experience, 305 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. Mon-Sat 11-7; Sun 12-5 (new, back) (00)1 415 863 9258

Flying Colors Comics, 2980 Treat Blvd, Concord, CA 94518. Mon-Sat 11-7 (Fri until 8); Sun 12-6 (new, back, ind, cards, merch) (00)1 510 825 5410

Lee's Comics, Inc., 1020-F N Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94043. Mon-Sun 10-9 (new, back: 1930s to date, anime, manga, s-p, adult, merch) (00)1 650 965 1800

Lee's Comics, Inc., 2222 South El Camino Real, San Mateo, CA 94403. Mon-Sun 10-9, (new, back: 1930s to date, anime, manga, adult, s-p, merch) (00)1 650 571 1489

Meltdown Comics & Collectibles, 7522 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90046 (toys, comics, books) (00)1 323 851 7223

Stand-Up Comics, 10020 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530. Mon-Fri 11 7; Sat-Sun 11-6 (new, back, cards, anime, CCG, merch) (00)1 510 525 3344

Third Planet, 3822 Sepulveda Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90505. Sun-Thurs 11-8; Fri + Sat 11-9 (new, ind, back, CCG, RPG, GW, sci-fi/fantasy, anime, merch) (00)1 310 791 6227

Hawaii

Gecko Books & Comics, 3613 Waialae Avenue, Honolulu, 96816. Mon-Sun 9-9 (new, back, cards, toys, merch) (00)1 808 732 1292

Illinois

Comic Kingdom, 5941 W Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL 60634. (new, back) (00)1 773 545 2231

Louisiana

Comic Cosmos, 343 W Esplanade Avenue, Kenner, LA 70065. Mon-Thur 11.30-7, Fri-Sat 11-7.30, Sun 12-5 (new, back, cards, CCG, toys, anime) (00)1 504 286 0039

Crescent City Comics & Cards, 6111 Elysian Fields, New Orleans, LA 70122. Mon-Sat 11-7, Sun 12-6 (new, back, cards, CCG, RPG, anime) (00)1 504 286 0039

More Fun Comics, 8200 Oak Street, New Orleans, LA 70118. Tues-Sat 11-7, Sun-Mon 12-6 (new, back, cards, CCG, merch, toys, CDs) (00)1 504 865 1800

Maine

Casablanca Comics, 151 Middle Street, Portland, ME 04101. Mon-Sat 10-9, Sun 12-7 (new, back, cards, CCG, RPG, merch, art) (00)1 207 780 1676

Casablanca Comics, 778 Roosevelt Trail, Windham, ME 04062. Mon-Fri 11-7, Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5 (new, back, CCG, RPG, merch)(00)1 207 892 0056

Massachusetts

Comicopia, 464 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02215. Mon-Sun 11-7 (Wed 10-8) (new, merch, CCG, manga, tpbk)(00)1 617 266 4266

Minnesota

Uncle Sven's Comic Shoppe, 1838 St Clair Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55105. Mon-Fri 3-6, Sat 11-4 (new, back, tpbk, gn, videos, action figures, CCG, RPG; est 19 years) (00)1 651 699 3409

New York State

Earthworld Comics, 327 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206. Mon-Wed 11-6; Thur-Fri 11-7, Sat 11-6, Sun 12-5 (new, back, ind, manga/anime, cards, merch) (00)1 518 465 5495

Forbidden Planet (**FPI** associate), 840 Broadway (at 13th St, NY 10003. Mon-Sat 10-10; Sun 12-10. (new, ind, back, RPG, merch, fantasy) (00)1 212 473 1576

Jim Hanley's Universe Ltd, 4 West 33rd Street (opposite Empire State Building), NY 10001. Mon-Sat 9am-11pm; Sun 10-9. (Everything to do with comics) (00)1 212 268 7088

Jim Hanley's Universe Ltd, 325 New Dorp Lane, Staten Island, NY 10306. Mon-Sun; 12-9. (Everything to do with comics) (00)1 718 351 6299

Midtown Comics, 200 West 40th Street, NY 10018 (00)1 212 302-8192

Ohio

The Laughing Ogre, 4258 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43214. Mon-Sat 10-9; Sun 12-5 (new, back, cards, merch) (00)1 614 267 6473

Oklahoma

Time Warp, 588 SE Washington Street, Bartlesville, OK 74006 (new, back, cards, games, toys, CDs, sci-fi/fantasy) (00)1 918 335 3373

Pennsylvania

Comic Castle, 17 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, PA 17703 Mon-Sun 10-9 (new, back) (00)1 717 322 8763

Golden Eagle, Berkshire Square, 1159 Berkshire Boulevard, Wyoming, PA 19610 (new, back, games, CCG, cards, Star Wars/Trek) (00)1 610 376 8255

Golden Eagle, Fairgrounds Square Mall, Reading, PA 19605 (new, back, games, CCG, cards, Star Wars/Trek) (00)1 610 921 3160

Tennessee

Collector's World, 1511 E Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37130. Open all week (new, back, CCG, merch, cards, CDs) (00)1 615 895 1120

Collector's World, Hickory Plaza South Central, 5751 Nolensville Road, Nashville, TN 37211. Open all week (new, back, CCG, merch, cards, CDs) (00)1 615 895 1120

Collector's World, 10820 Kingston Park #10, Knoxville, TN 37922 Open all week (new, back, CCG, merch, cards, CDs) (00)1 423 675 6830

Collector's World, 4006 Granny White Park, Nashville, TN 37204 (new, back, CCG, merch)(00)1 615 385 8136

Texas

Cliff's Comics, 2205 West Berry Street, Fort Worth, TX 76110. (new, back, cards, merch) (00)1 817 927 7172

Collectible Heroes, 502 West Calton Road #307, Laredo, TX 78041. Mon-Wed 2-7.30; Thurs-Sat 11.30-7.30 (new, back, cards, merch) (00)1 956 791 8428

Dragon's Lair Comics & Fantasy, 616 West 34th Street, Austin, TX 78705 (new, back, games, anime, miniatures, prl) (00)1 512 454 2399

Virginia

Thore Comics, 3514 Oaklawn Boulevard, Hopewell, VA 23860. Mon-Sat 11-7, (new, back, Silver Age, sci-fi, M:TG, cards, vinyl)(00)1 804 458 9561

Trilogy Shop, 700 E Little Creek Road, Norfolk, VA 23518. Mon-Fri 11-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 12-6 (new, back, merch) (00)1 757 587 2540

Wisconsin

Lost World of Wonders, 6713 West Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53219 (00)1 414 328 4651

Direct Market Retailers:

Comics International's Retail Index is THE international retail reference source for collectors, creators, publishers and journalists. Through it you can reach over 40,000 dedicated readers each issue for only £6 (US $10) a month! Bookable in six-issue blocks, retailers wishing to be included should send US $60 or £36 (UK: please add £6.30 to cover VAT @ 17.5%) plus shop information as detailed on previous page to:

Comics International, 345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ

Cheques and international money orders should be made payable to Comics International. Alternatively, payment can be made by credit card, fax: 0(11 44) 1273 566 333 or e-mail: comicsinternational@yahoo.co.uk

The letters **(FPI)** after various entries indicates that the company is part of **Forbidden Planet International Ltd**

Retailers: International

Australia

Arcadia Unbound, 267 Forest Road, Hurstville, NSW 2220. Mon-Fri 10.30-7, Sat 10-4, Sun 12-3 (imp, back, manga, merch, CCG) (0061) 2 9585 1489

Books & Bounties/Comics Haven, 157a Charters Towers Road, Townsville, Queensland 4812. Mon-Sat 9-6 (imp, back, gn, merch, RPG, CCG) (0061) 7 4779 2408

Fan Attic, 1st Floor, 91 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane, Queensland 4002. Mon-Sun 9.30-5.30 (toys, Star Wars, sci-fi collectibles) (0061) 7 3221 1420

Kinda Lotsa Comics and Stuff, Shop 4, 503-511 King Street, Newtown, Sydney, NSW. Mon-Sat 10.30-7.30 (back, toys, merch)(0061) 2 9565 1054

Known Space Books, 1st Floor, 108 Gawler Place, Adelaide, SA 5000. Wed-Sat 12-6 (US/UK back) (0061) 8 8223 4304

Phantom Zone, 23 Anderson Street, Chatswood, NSW 2067. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat-Sun 9-4 (imp, back, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 9411 3709

Phantom Zone, 198 Mann Street, Gosford, NSW 2250. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat-Sun 9-4. (imp, back, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 43 25 4599

Phantom Zone, 207 George Street, Liverpool, NSW. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat-Sun 9-4. (imp, back, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 9601 2622

Phantom Zone, 285 Hunter Street, Newcastle, NSW. 2300. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat-Sun 9-4. (imp, back, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 4929 5717

Phantom Zone, 101a Argyle Street, Parramatta, NSW 2150 Mon-Fri 9-6; Sat-Sun 9-4 (imp, back, books, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 9891 1848

Phantom Zone, 268 Crown Street, Wollongong, NSW. 2500. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat-Sun 9-4 (imp, back, gn, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 4228 7393

Austria

Comic Treff, Getreidemarkt 2-4, 1010 Vienna. Mon-Fri 10-7, Sat 10-1 (imp, back, gn, CCG) (0043) 11 586 76 27

Belgium

Forbidden Zone, 25 Rue de Tamines, 1060 Brussels. (3 floors; imp, back, merch, US/French, STO, toys) (0032 2) 534 63 67 (fax 538 24 52)

Canada

Connection MD, 1539 Van Horne Avenue, Montreal, Quebec H2V 1L4. Mon-Sat 11-6 (new, merch, back, CCG) (00)1 514 948 2627

Dragon Lady Comics & Paper Nostalgia, 609 College Street, Toronto, Ontario M6G 1B5. (00)1 416 536 7460

Little Shop of Heroes, 160 Wallace Avenue, South Listowel, Ontario N4W 1X9 (00)1 519 291 2281

Silver Snail Comic Shop, 367 Queen Street West, Toronto M5V 2A4. Mon-Wed 10-6; Thurs-Fri 11-8; Sat 10-6; Sun 12-5 (00)1 416 593 0889

France

Album, 67 boulevard St Germain, 75005 Paris. Mon-Sat 10-8; Sun 12-7 (imp, back, gn) (0033) 53 10 00 60

Album, 6 rue Dante, 75005 Paris. Mon-Sat 10-8; Sun 12-7 (imp, back, gn) (0033) 43 54 67 09

Alpha Omega, 25 rue de la Clef, 59800 Lille. Mon 2.30-7.30, Tue-Sat 10.30-12.30/2.30-7.30 (imp, back, French, merch, trading/gaming cards, toys, RPG, Wars/Trek, B5, L5R) (0033) 320 319 375

Astro City, 22 rue Masurel, 59800 Lille. Mon 3-7.30; Tue-Sat 10-12.30, 2-7.30 (imp, manga, cards, merch, kits) (0033) 320 55 1010

Impact Comics, 64 rue Condorcet, 75009 Paris. Mon-Sat 11-7.30 (imp, back, merch, CCG)(0033) 42 80 30 10

L'Antre des Dragons, 56 rue de Loup, 33000 Bordeaux. Mon-Sat 10-1/2-7 (imp, manga, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0033) 55 65 17378

Les Nageurs de Sable, 14 rue Courteline, 37058 Tours. Mon-Sat 11-1/2-7 (imp, back, cards, merch) (0033) 2 47 39 52 40

Pulps, 14 bld Morland, 75004 Paris. Mon-Sat 11-7 (imp, back, RPG) (0033) 1 42 72 55 25

Germany

Black Dog Comics, Rodenberg Strasse 9, 10439 Berlin. Mon-Fri 11-6.30, Sat 11-2 (imp, back, gn, t/cards) (0049) 30 4473 6486

Grober Unfug, Zossenerstrasse 32-33, 10961 Berlin. Mon-Sat 11-7 (imp, back, gn, CCG, merch) (0049) 30 6940 1490

Greece

Metropolis Comics, 94 Metropoleos St, 54622 Thessaloniki. Mon-Sat 10.30-3.30/7.30-11.30 (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0030) 3 193 7775

Solaris, 6 Botasi Str, 10682, Athens. Mon-Sat 9-3.30/5-8.30 (imp, back, gn, merch) (0030) 1 384 1065

Holland

Henk Lie's Comics & Manga Store, Zeeduk 104, 1012BB Amsterdam. Mon-Sat 11-6; Sun 11-9 (imp, cards, merch, CCG) (0031) 20 421 3688

Hungary

Troll Kepregenyta'r, Terez Krt 13, Budapest 1067. Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-1(imp, manga, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0036) 1 322 6026

Irish Republic

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 5-6 Crompton Quay, Dublin 2. Mon-Sat 10-6 (Thurs 10-7); Sun 12-5 (imp, back, ind, merch, u/g, UK, gn, STO) (0035) 3167 10688

Sub-City Comics, 2 Exchequer Street, Dublin 2. (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, prl, RPG, CCG, merch) (0035) 3167 71902

Sub-City Comics, Unit 10, Level 1, Corbettcourt Centre, Eyre Square, Galway. (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, prl, RPG, CCG, merch) (0035) 3915 65994

The 3rd Place, Crow Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2. (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, s-p, ind, prl, RPG, CCG, merch) (0035) 3163 36965

Italy

Avalon, via Battisti 9/b, Bologna. Mon 3-7, Tue-Sat 10.30-1/2-7.30 (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0039) 051 234459

Avalon, via Pedriali 21, Forli. Mon 3-7, Tue-Sat 10-1/2-7 (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0039) 0543 33523

Avalon, via Settembrini 20, Milan. Mon 3.30-7.30, Tue-Sat 11-7.30 (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0039) 022 9400410

Avalon, via Foscolo 3, Padova. Mon 3-7, Tue-Sat 10-1/2-7. (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch)(0039) 049 658290

Avalon, via Bissolati 68, Rome. Mon 3-7, Tue-Sat 10-1/2-7 (imp, back, gn, CCG, cards, merch)

Avalon, via Magenta 0, Torino. Mon 3.30-7, Tue-Sat 10.30-1, 2-7.30 (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0039) 011 5617252

Forbidden Planet, via Pinerolo 11/15, 00182 Rome (imp, back, gn) (0039) 06 70305702

Il Marchio Giallo, via Deghi Scipioni 116, Rome. Tue-Sat 10.30-1/2-7.30 (imp, back, merch, kits) (0039) 06 361 40 60

La Borsa del Fumetto, via Lecco 16, 20124 Milano. (imp, back, European and RPG, CCG) (0039) 11 5617252

Malaysia

The Mind Shop, Starhill Centre, Jalang Bukit Bintag, Kuala Lumpur. Mon-Sat 11-10 (imp, CCG, RPG, merch) (00603) 241 8871

The Mind Shop, S 58 Bandar Utama, Petaling Jaya. Mon-Sat 11-10 (imp, CCG, RPG, merch) (00603) 719 8246

The Mind Shop, Jln SS21/39, Petaling Jaya. Mon-Sat 11-10 (imp, CCG, RPG, merch) (00603) 717 6602

New Zealand

Heroes For Sale, Level 2, 62 Queen St, Auckland. Mon-Sat 10-7 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g)(0064) 9 307 0682

Whitcoulls Corner Branch, 210 Queen Street, Private Bag 92098, Auckland. (imp, back, gn, tpbk, s-p, merch, ind, u/g) (0064) 9 356 5400 (fax: 9 356 5408)

Portugal

BdMania, Rua das Flores 67-71 R/C, 1200 Lisboa. Mon-Sat 11-7.30 (imp, back, CCG, merch) (00351) 21 346 1207

Interzona, Centro Comercial Brasilia, Loja 203, Rua Luis Veaga Lertao 98-120, 6050 Porto. Mon-Sat 11-11 (imp, back, gn, CCG, merch) (00351) 22 609 1460

Mundo Fantasma, Centro Comercial Brasilia, Rua Luis Veiga Leitao, 98/120, 1 Andar-Loja 203, 4050-399 Porto. Mon-Sat 11-11 (US imp, back, gn, CCG, merch) (00351) 22 609 1460

South Africa

Euroniag, Shop 79A, East Rand Mall, Boksburg, Johannesburg. Mon-Sun 9-10 (imp, back, gn, CCG, merch) (0027) 11 896 3773

Zed Bree's Comic Universe, Mediterr-anean Building, 24 Tenth Ave, Edenvale 1610 Gauteng. 9.30-6 (imp, merch, gn, CCG) 002711 453 4215 (fax 453 4459)

Spain

Gigamesh, RDA San Pedro 53, 08010 Barcelona. Mon-Sat 10-1.30/4.30-8 (imp, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0034) 3 246 6359

Sweden

Comics Heaven, Stora Nygatan 23, 11127 Stockholm. Mon-Sat 10-6.30 (imp, back, gn, merch)(0046) 8 202516

Switzerland

Analph Comicladen Strassburgstr, 10 PO Box 1030, 8004 Zürich. (0041) 1 2419695 fax 1 2403442

The letters **(FPI)** after entries indicate that the company is part of **Forbidden Planet International Ltd**

International Festivals

A listing of the world's major comics festivals and conventions. For further information, call the organisers on the phone, fax or e-mail numbers provided. To view updates, contact them on their websites. Organisers' estimates of their previous year's attendance is given in brackets.

July 22-25: United States

COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL '04, San Diego, California. (2003 est: 53,000). Organisers: Comic-Con International, PO Box 128458, San Diego, CA 92112-8458. Tel: 001 619 491 2475 fax: 001 619 414 1022. Website: www.comic-con.org

August 13-15: United States

WIZARD WORLD CHICAGO CON 2004. (2003 est: 35,000) Organisers: Wizard World Chicago, 151 Wells Avenue, Congers, NY 10920-2064. Tel: 001 608 226 0200. Website: www.wizarduniverse.com

August 14-15: England

MEMORABILIA '04, NEC, Birmingham. Organisers: Made in Heaven, 1 Star Street, Moffat, Dumfriesshire DG10 9DR. Tel: 01683 220787 fax: 01683 220798. Website: www.memorabilia.co.uk

August 27-29: Canada

CANADIAN NATIONAL COMIC BOOK EXPO 2004, Metro Toronto Convention Center, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. (2003: 15,000) Website: www.hobbystar.com

September 3-6: United States

DRAGON*CON 2004, Atlanta, Georgia. (2003: 20,000). Organisers: Dragon*Con, PO Box 16459, Atlanta, GA 30321-9998. Tel: 001 770 909 0115 fax: 001 770 909 0112. Website: www.dragoncon.org

September 9-11: Norway

RAPTUS INTERNATIONAL COMICS FESTIVAL. Organisers: Raptus Bergen Comics Festival, PO Box 768, Central 5807 Bergen, Norway. Tel/fax: 0047 55 32 88 55. Website: www.raptus.no

September 11-12: United States

BALTIMORE COMIC-CON, The Baltimore Convention Centre, One West Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. Contact: Marc Nathan. Tel: 001 410 526 7410. Website: www.comicon.com/baltimore

September: Finland

THE 19TH HELSINKI COMICS FESTIVAL. Organisers: The Finnish Comics Society, PL 927, 00101 Helsinki, Finland. Tel/fax: 00358 50 407 0553. E-mail: tiina-riikka.rauhala@humak.edu Date: TBA

October 9-10: Belgium

FACTS 2004, ICC Citadelpark, 9000 Gent. Organisers: Forbidden Zone, 25 Rue de Tamines, 1060 Brussels, Belgium. Tel: 0032 2 534 63 67 fax 0032 2 538 24 52. Website: www.facts-convention.com

October 23: England

COMIC FESTIVAL LONDON. Organisers: Comic Festival, PO Box 48, Clevedon, Bristol BS21 7LQ. Website: www.comicfestival.co.uk

October: Italy

LUCCA COMICS. Organisers: Lucca Comics, Via della Cavallerizza 11, 55100 Lucca, Italy. Tel: 0039 583 48522 fax: 0039 583 91203. Date: TBA

November 13-14: Scotland

MEMORABILIA '04, The SECC, Glasgow. Organisers: Made in Heaven, 1 Star St, Moffat, Dumfriesshire DG10 9DR. Tel: 01683 220787 fax: 01683 220798. Website: www.memorabilia.co.uk

November 27-28: England

MEMORABILIA '04, NEC, Birmingham. Organisers: Made in Heaven, 1 Star Street, Moffat, Dumfriesshire DG10 9DR. Tel: 01683 220787 fax: 01683 220798. Website: www.memorabilia.co.uk

Comics Publishers

North America

Unlike Europe, North American publishers invariably favour indie status to that of being labelled small press. This results in there being hundreds of comics publishers.

While circulations vary immensly, the following are the continent's major comicbook producers with titles printing between 5,000 and 150,000 copies. Contact telephone numbers are given where readily available.

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, PO Box 1674 Station C, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2G 4R2 (Cerebus)

ABSTRACT STUDIOS, PO Box 271487, Houston, TX 77277-1487 (Strangers in Paradise)

AC COMICS, PO Box 521216, Longwood, FL 32752-1216 (adventure titles, Golden Age superhero and western reprints)

ACCLAIM COMICS, 1 Acclaim Plaza, Glen Cove, NY 11542 (game tie-in adventure, Valiant superhero imprint. dormant) (00)1 516 656 5000

AiT/PLANET LAR, 2034 47th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116 (graphic novels) (00)1 415 504 7516

ALTERNATIVE COMICS, 503 North West 37th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32609-2204 (alternative and graphic novels) (00)1 352 373 6336

AMERICAN MEDIA CONSUMER ENTERTAINMENT, INC, 600 East Coast Avenue, Lantana, Florida 33464 (Cracked) (00)1 561 586 1111

ANTARCTIC PRESS, 7272 Wurzbach Parkway , Suite 204, San Antonio, Texas TX 78240 (adventure and US manga)

ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543 (humour) (00)1 914 381 5155

AVATAR PRESS, 9 Triumph Drive, Urbana, IL 61802 (horror fantasy titles) (00)1 217 384 2216

AWESOME ENTERTAINMENT, 9744 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 402, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, CA 90212 (adventure titles; dormant)

BONGO ENTERTAINMENT,1440 South Sepulveda Boulevard, 3rd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90025 (The Simpsons and related humour titles) (00)1 310 966 6168

CALIBER COMICS, 225 North Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 (black and white adventure titles) (00)1 734 462 0457

CARTOON BOOKS, PO Box 16973, Columbus, OH43216 (Bone and related)

CROSSGEN ENTERTAINMENT, INC, 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, FL 34677 (fantasy adventure) (00)1 813 891 1702

CRUSADE FINE ARTS LTD, PO Box 845, Bayport, NY 11705 (fantasy and adventure) (00)1 631 472 2866

DARK HORSE COMICS, 10956 South East Main Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222 (adventure titles, licensed, US and Japanese manga) (00)1 503 652 8815

DC COMICS, 1700 Broadway, NY 10019 (adventure and humour, MAD, Vertigo and Paradox Press imprints) (00)1 212 636 5400

DRAWN & QUARTERLY, PO Box 48056, Montreal, Quebec, H2V 4SB, Canada (black and white biog)

DREAMWAVE PRODUCTIONS, 11 Allstate Parkway, Suite 200, Markham, Ontario L3R 9T8, Canada

DYNAMIC FORCES, 155 Ninth Avenue, Suite E, Runnemede, NJ 08078 (variant editions and merchandise) (00)1 856 312 1040

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS, 7563 Lake City Way North East, Seattle, Washington 98115 (adventure, biographical and Eros adult) (00)1 206 524 1967

HARRIS COMICS, 1115 Broadway, 8th Floor, NY 10010 (Vampirella, fantasy and horror) (00)1 212 807 7100

HEAVY METAL, 100 North Village Road, Suite 12, Rockville Center, NY 11570 (adult fantasy magazines and spin-off editions)

HUMANOIDS PUBLISHING, PO Box 931658, Hollywood, California CA 90093 (US-European editions)

IMAGE COMICS, 1071 North Batavia Street, Suite A, Orange, CA 92867 (adventure) (00)1 714 2880200

MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, 10th Floor, East 40th Street, New York, NY 10016 (adventure, humour and licensed) (00)1 212 5764000

NBM PUBLICATIONS, 185 Madison Avenue, Suite 1504, New York, NY 10016 (adult fantasy graphic novels and magazines)

ONI PRESS, 6336 South East Milwaukie Avenue, PMB 30, Portland, OR 97202 (adventure)

RADIO COMIX, 11765 West Avenue, PMB #117, San Antonio, TX 78216 (anthropomorphic manga) (00)1 210 3487195

SIRIUS ENTERTAINMENT, INC, PO Box 834, Stanhope, NJ 07802 (adult)

SLAVE LABOR GRAPHICS PUBLISHING, 577 South Market Street, San Jose, CA 95113 (black and white fantasy titles) (00)1 9718929

TOP SHELF PRODUCTIONS, PO Box 1282, Marietta, GA 30061-1282 (alternative and biographical titles) (00)1 770 4276395

TWOMORROWS PUBLISHING, 10407 Bedfordtown Drive, Raleigh, NC 27614 (comics feature and history magazines and books) tel: (00)1 919 449 0344 fax: (00) 1 919 449 0327

VIZ COMMUNICATIONS, PO Box 77010, San Francisco, CA 94107 (English translated manga)

WaRP GRAPHICS, 2600 South Road, Suite 44/242, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 (Elfquest and spin-offs)

United Kingdom

The following are major UK newsstand comics and graphic novel publishers. If calling from outside of the UK, you should drop the first 0 and replace with: 01144 (USA); 0044 (mainland Europe and Eire); 001144 (Australasia).

AP COMICS, Suite 3, 7 French Row, St Albans, Herts AL3 5DU (adventure)

COM.X, The Dickens Inn, Kirk Street, London WC1N 2DG (adventure titles) 020 7831 7777

DC THOMSON, 2 Albert Square, Dundee DD1 9QJ (humour and adventure comics, pocket books and annuals)

DENNIS PUBLISHING LTD, 30 Cleveland Street, London W1T 4JD (humour and adventure comics, pocket books and annuals) 020 7907 6000

EGMONT MAGAZINES LTD, 25-31 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SU (humour, licensed and pre-school titles) 020 7344 6400

HAMLYN BOOKS, 2-4 Heron Quays, London E14 4JB (graphic novels) 020 7531 8400

JOHN BROWN CITRUS PUBLISHING, The New Boathouse, 136-142 Bramley Road, London W10 6SR (albums) 020 7565 3000

KNOCKABOUT COMICS, 10 Acklam Road, London W10 5QZ (humour and underground comix and graphic novels) 020 8969 2945

PANINI COMICS (UK), Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ (humour and adventure comics, Marvel licensed titles) 01892 500100

REBELLION DEVELOPMENTS LTD, The Studio, Brewer Street, Oxford OX1 1QN (Judge Dredd The Megazine and 2000 AD) 01865 792201

THE REDAN COMPANY, Canon Court East, Abbey Lawn, Shrewsbury SY2 5DE (pre-school humour and licenced titles) 01743 364433

SAVOY BOOKS, 446 Wilmslow Road, Withington, Manchester M20 3BW (adult comics magazines, books and graphic novels) 0161 445 5771

TITAN ENTERTAINMENT GROUP LTD, Titan House, 144 Southwark Street, London SE1 0UP (licensed graphic novels, books, magazines and comics) 020 7620 0200

France

The following are the country's major comics and album publishers. If phoning from the USA, the country code of 0033 becomes 011 33

ALBIN MICHEL, 22 rue Huyghens, 75014 Paris (albums) (0033) 1 42 79 10 00

CASTERMAN, 36 rue du Chemin Vert, 75011, Paris (albums and manga)

DARGAUD, 15-27 rue Moussorgski, 75018 Paris (albums and manga) tel: (0033) 1 53 26 32 32 fax: (0033) 1 53 26 32 00

DELCOURT, 54 rue d'Hauteville, 75010 Paris (albums and comics) tel: (0033) 1 56 03 92 20 fax: (0033) 1 56 03 92 30

FLUIDE GLACIAL, 33 avenue du Main, BP 187, 75755 Paris (comics and albums) (0033) 1 43 20 23 96

GLENAT, 31-33 rue Ernest Renan, 92130 Issy-Les-Moulineaux (albums and manga titles) tel: (0033) 1 41 46 11 41 fax: (0033) 1 41 46 11 13

J'AI LU, 84 rue de Grenelle, 75007 Paris (licenced Japanese manga) (0033) 1 44 39 34 70

LES HUMANOIDES ASSOCIES, 5 Passage Piver, 75011 Paris (albums) tel: (0033) 1 49 29 88 88 fax: (0033) 1 49 29 88 89

SEMIC FRANCE, 44316 Nantes Cedex 03 (licenced comics and albums) (0033) 2 51 86 14 14

Italy

The following are the country's major comics and album publishers. If phoning from the USA, the country code of 0039 becomes 011 39

SERGIO BONELLI EDITORE, via Buonarroti 38, 20145 Milano (black and white comics)

CULT COMICS, viale Emilio Po' 380, 41100 Modena (Image and Dark Horse licensed)

MAGIC PRESS, Zona industriale via Ragusa 18, 00040 Pavona, Roma (Vertigo and WildStorm licensed titles) (0039) 06 93020361

STAR COMICS, strada Selvette 1bis/1 Bosco (PG) (comics and black and white manga)

ASTORINA S.R.I., via Boccaccio 32, 20123 Milano (Diabolik original and reprint black and white)

KING COMICS, via Pinerolo 3, 00182 Roma (comics)

Spain

The following are the country's comics and album publishers. If phoning from the USA, the country code of 0034 becomes 011 34

NORMA EDITORAL, Fluvià 89, 08019 Barcelona (licensed DC and Dark Horse comics and albums) 0034 93 303 68 20

EDITORIAL PLANETA-DE AGOSTINI, SA, Aribau 185, 08021 Barcelona (licensed Dark Horse comics and albums)

TOUTAIN EDITOR, SA, Diagonal 325, E-08009 Barcelona (licensed Marvel, Dark Horse, Chaos!, Image and manga comics and albums) 0034 93 344 06 00

EDICIONES LA CÚPULA, Plaza de las Beatas 3, E-08003 Barcelona (adult comics and albums) 0034 32 682 8 05

Mail Order Specialists

Key to abbreviations used:

w/s	= wholesale available	CoBRA	= Comic Book Retailers' mail order protection scheme
dis	= bulk discount terms		
cat	= phone/write for catalogue	cc	= major credit cards accepted
s-cat	= sae for catalogue		
wants	= wants lists accepted	sae	= send stamped, addressed envelope with enquiry
s-wants	= sae with wants lists		

When telephoning from outside the UK, drop the first 0 and replace with: 01144 (USA); 0044 (mainland Europe & Eire); 001144 (Australasia).

Golden Age

Generally acknowledged as being published between 1938 and 1945, the first age of superhero comics, but herein designated to cover all pre-Silver Age American comics.

Comic Biz, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (wants, CoBRA, cc, cat) 020 8446 3464

Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd, 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

NEW **Goldust Comics**, 67 St John's Wood High St, London NW8 7NL (high grade, cat, wants, cc) 020 8341 5558

Mighty World of Comicana, 237 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 020 7836 5630

Quality Comics, 345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ (CoBRA, cc)

Silver Acre Comics, PO Box 114, Chester CH4 8WQ (s-wants, cc) 01244 680 048 (fax: 680686)

Silver Age

*Accepted as starting in 1955 with DC's superhero rebirth through **Detective Comics** #225 (intro-ducing the Martian Manhunter) and **Showcase** #4 (introducing the Barry Allen Flash). Herein covering titles up to late 1960s.*

Comic Biz, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (wants, CoBRA, cc, cat) 020 8446 3464

Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd, 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

East Coast Comics UK, 28 Acton Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 7LG (high grade, s-want, cc, sae) 01502 578385 (day) 560727 (eve)

NEW **Goldust Comics**, 67 St John's Wood High St, London NW8 7NL (high grade, cat, wants, cc) 020 8341 5558

Mighty World of Comicana, 237 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 020 7836 5630

Quality Comics, 345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ (CoBRA, cc)

Quicksilver Comics, PO Box 73, Ossett WF5 0YQ (s-cat, dis, wants, cc, CoBRA) 01924 270500 (fax: 270919)

Silver Acre Comics, PO Box 114, Chester CH4 8WQ (s-wants, cc) 01244 680 048 (fax 680686)

Post-Silver Age

Comics from 1970 to date: From Bronze Age-Marvel Age-Lead Age up to Platinum Age-Gimmick Age-Image Age. Historians will doubtless eventually decide on a name.

Mighty World of Comicana, 237 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 020 7836 5630

Planet Warehouse (FPI) *formerly Comics Warehouse* PO Box 600, 8 Galliford Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD (w/s, cat, cc, CoBRA) 01621 877244

Quality Comics, 345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ (CoBRA, cc)

Tarpaulin Books and Comics, 5 Oak Close, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 3EZ (wants, s-cat) 01842 820139

Hot Comics

Current or key titles, first issues or first appearances of major characters. Investment titles for speculators willing to gamble.

A Place in Space, 101 Church Street, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1RN (wants, cc, dis) 020 8686 2400

Comix-shop. co.uk, 7a High Street, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 1JN (wants, cat, cc) 01628 777998

Advance Imports

US comics are not generally available in UK newsagents, except for some sea-freight shipped low-cover price DCs and Marvels, and can only be found through specialists in the rest of the world. The following companies offer air-shipped copies from all of the major US publishers.

Ace Comics, 63/64 High Street, Colchester, Essex (wants, cat, CoBRA, cc) 01206 561912

Avalon Comics, 143 Lavender Hill, London SW11 5QJ (cc, CoBRA) 020 7924 3609

Comix-shop.co.uk, 7a High Street, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 1JN (wants, cat, cc) 01628 777998

86th Floor Comics & Cards, 6 Shipley Common Lane, Ilkeston, Derbyshire DE7 8TR (dis, cat, cc) 0115 9443009

Forbidden Planet Mega-store, 179 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8JR (s-cat cc) 020 7420 3666

Gosh! Strips by Mail, 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PH 020 7636 1011

Planet Warehouse (FPI) *formerly Comics Warehouse*, PO Box 600, 8 Galliford Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD (w/s, cat, cc, CoBRA) 01621 877244

Red Hot Comics, The Warehouse Block D Unit 8, Glenwood Business Park, Glenwood Place, Glasgow G45 9UH (CoBRA, w/s, dis, wants, cc) tel/fax: 0141 630 0049

Limited Editions

Many high-profile miniseries and one-shots are also available in limited, numbered and often autographed editions (s&n). New titles, to acquire copyright, can also appear in small print-run "ashcan" editions (ash).

Comic Biz, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (CoBRA, cc, ash, s&n, cat) 020 8446 3464

Trading Cards

Several mail order dealers carry a range of non-sports cards and related peripherals (files, folders, sleeves).

Beyond Comics, 76 Harlescott Road, Nunhead, London SE15 3BZ (s-cat, s-wants, sae, CoBRA) tel/fax: 020 7564 4213

John McDonald: Non-Sport Trading Cards, 20 Alder Grove, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire ML5 3PT (cat, wants) tel/fax: 01236 433358

Old British Titles

The popularity of old British comics continues to increase as more dealers expand into this area. The following specialise in such titles.

The Book Palace, Jubilee House, Bedwardine Road, Crystal Palace, London SE19 3AP 020 8768 0022

Comic Biz, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (wants, CoBRA, cc, cat) 020 8446 3464

Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd, 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

Weird Fantasy, 19 Decoy Road, Ormesby, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR29 3LG (s-cat, s-wants, annuals specialist)

Merchandise

Comics, film and TV-related t-shirts, posters, video games, badges, toys, action figures, etc.

Off World: The Sci-Fi Store, 142 Market Halls, Arndale Centre, Luton, Beds LU1 2TP. (specialists in Star Trek, Star Wars and sci-fi collectables) 01582 736256

Sci-Fi Merchandise Direct (FPI) and **Gear for Games (FPI)** Maldon, Essex CM9 4XD (cat) 01621 877222

Original Art

With artists having their originals returned by publishers, an increasing number of pages are now being made available for collectors.

The Book Palace, Jubilee House, Bedwardine Road, Crystal Palace, London SE19 3AP 020 8768 0022

Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd, 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

Silver Acre Comics, PO Box 114, Chester CH4 8WQ (s-wants, cc) 01244 680 048 (fax: 680686)

Peripherals

Acid-free protection for comics. Backing boards, protective bags, storage boxes, etc.

The Book Palace, Jubilee House, Bedwardine Road, Crystal Palace, London SE19 3AP 020 8768 0022

Just Comics, 65 Station Road, Warboys, Huntingdon, Cambs PE28 2TH (w/s only, CollectorLine™ distributor) 01487 824895 01487 824896

Planet Warehouse (FPI) *formerly Comics Warehouse*, PO Box 600, 8 Galliford Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD (w/s, cat, cc, CoBRA) 01621 877244

General Fantasy

As well as comics old and new, some suppliers also provide catalogues of multi-media fantasy, covering TV, film, trading cards and toys.

Forbidden Planet Mail Order, 144 Southwark Street, London SE1 0UP (cat) 020 7803 1900 (fax: 7803 1901)

Sci-Fi Merchandise Direct (FPI) and **Gear for Games (FPI)** Maldon, Essex CM9 4XD (cat) 01621 877222

Manga Titles

English language translations of Japanese comics and US titles drawn in the Japanese style.

United Publications, 85 Croydon Road, Keston, Kent BR2 8HU (ind, back, cat, wants, cc) 020 8325 9507

Alternative & Biographical

The following carry an extensive range of biographical and slice-of-life comicbooks and graphic novels (Fantagraphics, Maus, Crumb, Pekar...)

Gosh! Strips by Mail, 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PH (wants) 020 7636 1011

Knockabout Comics, 10 Acklam Road, London W10 5QZ (w/s, s-cat, cc) 020 8969 2945 (fax: 8968 7614)

Page 45, 9 Market Street, Nottingham NG1 6HY 0115 9508045

Comics Auctions

Accepting lots from the general public, comics auctions provide an alternative way for collectors to sell their valuable comics. The following accept items for sale, as well as providing regular catalogues for mail order bids.

Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd, 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

Distributors

Anybody considering opening a comics shop or becoming a mail order dealer can obtain further information about the supply of titles from the following who bulk air import US and European comics and related items on a weekly basis.

The Book Palace, Jubilee House, Bedwardine Road, Crystal Palace, London SE19 3AP (graphic novels, art books, comics, remainders, film and TV, popular culture) 020 8768 0022

Diamond Comic Distributors, 2nd Floor, Warton House, 150 High Street, London E15 2NP (US and European comics, cards and related items) 020 8536 5730 (fax: 8536 5736)

Red Route Distribution, Unit 24, 10 Acklam Road, London W10 5QZ (US & European comics/ graphic novels, back-list specialists) 020 8960 5855

Turnaround Publisher Services, Unit 3, Olympia Trading Estate, Coburg Road, Wood Green, London N22 6TZ (graphic novels, art books, film and TV, popular culture) 020 8829 3000

Mail Order Dealers:

CI's Mail Order Index is the industry's most cost-effective and highly-targeted way to reach a huge dedicated audience in excess of 40,000 readers every month. It costs only £4 ($6 US) per entry per issue to appear and is bookable in advance as a six-issue series. Send pre-payment of £24/$36 (plus £4.20 VAT for UK advertisers) per category with your details to:

Comics International, 345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ

Cheques and international money orders should be made payable to Comics International. Alternatively, payment can be made by credit card, fax: 0(11 44) 1273 566 333 or e-mail: comicsinternational@yahoo.co.uk

The letters **(FPI)** after entries indicates that the company is part of **Forbidden Planet International Ltd**

Classified

Advertising terms and conditions

Whether for publication or not, all advertisements must be accompanied by full name, home address and daytime phone number of advertiser.

• All private classified Wants or Announcements ads (comics or card related items only) are free of charge. Maximum 50 words, they will be printed at the publisher's discretion when space permits. *(Only one advertisement can be submitted per letter/per issue so everybody gets a chance to fit in!)*

• FOR SALE ads (and dealer wants/announcements) are charged:
(i) General announcements: Stating no issue numbers, prices or titles. Per 50 words (or part thereof) ..... £5.00 ($7.50 US)
(ii) List ads: Including specific titles, issues and/or prices. Minimum charge, per 100 words (or part thereof) ..... £10.00 ($15.00 US)

Full payment, to Comics International, must accompany wordage.

CI Classified, 345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ

For Sale

For sale: 20,000 US comics from the 1960s to the present at below Guide prices. Warner Bros store lithographs including Alex Ross, Jim Lee, Jim Balent art. Also superhero posters, portfolios, signed books, trading cards, boxed action figures, etc. Phone 01384 348124 or e-mail slimmy20@hotmail.com. Wants lists welcome.

For sale: **Hulk** 181 (vfn) – first appearance of Wolverine – £500. Other key issues available. Call David on 01494 677262.

For sale: British annuals – Flash Gordon £25, Eagle £20, Boys World £20, Playhour Story Book £10, all 1969 and nm/mint. Penrose Graphic Art annual (with 15-page article on British comics) 1972 vg/fn £35. Graphic novels – **Theodore Sturgeon: More Than Human** (Heavy Metal 1978) mint £25, **Penthouse: Oh Wicked Wanda** (1975, Ron Embleton) fine £50, **Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse Meets Robin Hood** (hardcover, 1980) vfn £20, **Vaughn Bode: Dutch Colour Comic Album** (1983) mint £15. Fanzines – **Witzend** 4 (Bode, Wood, Frazetta, etc, 1974) mint £15, **The World of the Wizard King** (Wood, 1974) mint £15. All post paid. Contact John Balfour, Westerstraat 67-3, Amsterdam, Holland 1015 LW.

British undergrounds for sale. Send sae for list to A. Greeno, 21 Beck Road, Canvey Island, Essex SS8 7QW. Or visit www.russang.supanet.com.

For sale: Over 1,000 comics from the '70s to the '90s. Due to emigration, I am selling them at rock bottom prices. '70s **Spider-Man**, **Tales to Astonish**, **Uncanny X-Men** 96-100 and '70s **FF**, and lots of early-'90s **Batman** for £1 each. Also early Dark Horse (**Predator**, **Terminator**) at cover price. I also have a load of Charlton and DC horror comics from the early '70s, which are a great read, for only £1 each. With some '70s treasury editions and obscure books and graphic novels, there is something for everyone! So call George on 01234 314292 (before 7pm) or 07762 543435 (after 7pm) for your free catalogue.

For sale: modest personal of 700-plus '60s and '70s US comics. Mainly in low and medium grade, some high grade. Various publishers, genres and many titles represented at reasonable prices. For list, please send a first class stamp to Chris Cocking, 134 Humber Road South, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 2EX.

For sale: a private collection of thousands of comics from the early-'80s and through to the '90s. Complete runs of **Uncanny X-Men** from #94, **X-Men**, **Wolverine**, **Spawn**, **Gen^{13}**, **X-Man**, **DV8** and **Darkminds**. Plus many annuals, miniseries and single issues of your favourite books. Grab your chance to own a high-quality comcis collection. Would prefer to sell in bulk. Deakers are welcome. For a list, write to Chris Varrow, 49 Surrey Grove, Sutton, Surrey SM1 3PW or call 07960 962372 any time.

Large and varied collection for sale: mostly '80s, '90s and '00s Marvel, DC and Vertigo, some Marvel UK, some indies. Over 1,00 items. Offers invited for sale as a job lot. E-mail: comicsale@hotmail.com for full list and details.

Wanted

Advertisers are reminded that Wanted ads must be no longer than 50 words (including address), and only single insertion private advertisements can be published free of charge.

Wanted: all comics! Especially underground, graphic novels, manga, '60s and '70s Marvel and DC, Heavy Metal, Creepy, Eerie, Vampirella, Famous Monsters, etc. Also film, TV, music magazines ('60s and '70s particularly) and all cult books and modern firsts. Buy, sell, trade. Book & Comic Exchange, 14 Pembridge Road, Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3HL. Call 020 7229 8420 or check out www.buy-sell-trade.co.uk. Huge selection on sale!

Announcements

Fanzine and small press titles must not be offered for sale before being printed. To verify publication, a sample copy must be sent in along with the advertising copy (50 words max). Single bookings only, so everybody gets a chance!

Comics artist seeks work! Artwork completed to professional standard. Write to Antonio Ghura, 21 Beck Road, Canvey Island, Essex SS8 7QW. E-mail: newplanet @supanet.com

New British independent comic: **Dusk**. "The time of day when the light is fading, but before night. A time of changing states when the journey into darkness begins. The perfect time to tell stories." Published by Dead By Dawn, A5, 68 pages. Send cheques for £4.99 to R. Starzecki, 21 Balfour Road, Bristol BS3 2AF. www.duskcomics.com

Sgt Mike Battle: Saddam Stomper! #1048 tells the true, uncensored story of Saddam Hussein's capture. With WMDs, poisonous pretzels, the Axis of Evil, bald monkeys and Saddam's deadliest weapon yet! Completely free from Graham Pearce, c/o 42 Talbot Road, Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire PR1 9QX. Why not visit www.sgtmikebattle.com?

Pirates, the latest 60-page anthology from the award-nominated creators of the Accent UK collective, is now available, with work fro Garen Ewing, David Hitchcock, Dave West and many more. Buy it for £4.50 (including p&p). Make cheques payable to Barry Renshaw, Redeye, 8 Avril Close, Reddish, Stockport SK5 6HX. Or online at www.accentukpress.co.uk for full details and previews.

Solar Wind 3 – voted Best Indie Comic at the National Comic Awards 2004. An affectionate and humorous tribute to British comics of the 1970s and '80s. 32 A4 pages, colour cover and free gift. £3 plus 50p (p&p) from P. Scott, 13 Kiln Crescent, Bp Middleham, Ferryhill, County Durham DL17 9AP.

Artists wanted to work on two character-driven, mature readers superhero series for submission to publishers. There has already been publisher interest in one of these series. Send two or three jpeg art samples or (preferably) a link to your work online to cabramillion@yahoo.co.uk

The O Men 24 (with colour cover!). The Eagle Award-nominated super-soap continues! Everything's gone pear-shaped, so the American superteam, the USAviours, steps in. Will they save the day – or just make things worse..? Send £1 to Martin Eden, 19a Trevelyan Road, Tooting, London SW17 9LS. Visit the website at www.theomen.free-online.co.uk.

Where are all the British female comics creators? I am very interested in promoting such creators. Send brief biogs and art samples (copies, please) to Tery Hooper, 203 Ashton Drive, Ashton Vale, Bristol BS3 2PY.

Redeye 2, the 60-page award-nominated magazine for UK indie press is now available, with loads of stuff, including interviews, reviews and features. And all for £4 (including p&p). Make cheques payable to Barry Renshaw, Redeye, 8 Avril Close, Reddish, Stockport SK5 6HX. Or online at www.accentukpress.co.uk for full details and previews.

Amusement, adventure and anthropomorphic animals! You'll find it all in **Bahala Na!** 4. A5, 24-page, black and white, colour cover. Only £1.50 (including p&p). **Bahala Na!** 1, 2 and 3 also available. Get all four for £3! Cheques to David Goodman. From 34 Banner Street, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 0HQ. Visit www.bahala-na.co.uk.

I am looking for good quality artists who are able to work to tight schedules for projects to be self published/submitted to publishers. Send brief biogs and art samples (copies, not originals) to Terry Hooper, BTCG, 203 Ashton Drive, Ashton Vale, Bristol BS3 2PY.

Warren fanzine, **Spooky** 3 is out now. Creepy, Eerie and Vampirella. £1.75 (UK, including p&p) from Piers Casimir, 2 The Broadway, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8LN. e-mail: piers@spookyfanzine.com

Comic Societies

Join The Eagle Society, dedicated to the memory of Britain's National Strip Cartoon Weekly – The Eagle 1950-1969. For just £18 per year (cheques to The Eagle Society) members receive our quarterly journal **Eagle Times**, as well as the chance to attend social gatherings and meet original Eagle contributors. Write to: Keith Howard, 25a Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2UA. E-mail: rsheaf@npg.org.uk

The Comics Creators Guild for industry veterans and aspiring professionals, the largest comics organisation in Europe. Monthly meetings, newsletter, exclusive publications, free legal advice, special discounts and more. For further info contact: Comics Creators Guild, 22 St James Mansions, West End Lane, West Hampstead, London NW6 2AA. www.comicscreators.org.uk

BUY OR SELL OR EVEN TRADE

It's been tried and tested for over 10 years and it's still going strong...

Comics International's *Classified* section has turned more than one £5 "For Sale" advertiser into a big-time full page dealer.

One of the first-read sections of the magazine for both dealers and fans, *Classified* offers you the opportunity to add a part time job to boost your finances.

Most comic fans have unwanted titles taking up valuable space...

... A loft which is in need of clearing.

... A spare room which is no longer spare.

... A garage which is pining for a car.

Classified can help you not only clear that space, but earn you money while doing so. More than 4,500 such ads have been placed on this page, with regular dealers coming back each issue.

It costs only £5 to place a 50-word For Sale general announcement. Or £10 for a 100-word list ad, detailing issues and prices. Ads can appear within a week of you sending them...

So, what are you waiting for? Everybody else to jump in first?

... It's up to you!

Comic & Card Events

Events @ CAMDEN CENTRE
Bidborough St, London WC1

COMICBOOK MARKETPLACE

2004 SUNDAY JULY 4

FOR AMERICAN COMICBOOKS AND CULT COLLECTABLES

OVER 90 DEALERS TABLES!

The Comicbook Marketplace is held six times a year at the Camden Centre and is just a few minutes walk from Euston, Kings Cross and St. Pancras stations. There are more than ninety tables with over 1,000,000 comicbooks, magazines and trading cards on sale, including S.F., Fantasy, Film and T.V. related items from Britain's top dealers.

HOW TO GET THERE. BUS: 10, 17, 30, 45, 46, 63, 73, 91, 205, 214, 259, 390 or 476 to Kings Cross/Camden Town Hall. UNDERGROUND: Circle, Metropolitan, Piccadilly or Victoria Line to Kings Cross. BRITISH RAIL: Euston, Kings Cross and St. Pancras are within walking distance of the venue.

FUTURE DATE: 5TH SEPTEMBER 2004

CARD MART

2004 SUNDAY JULY 11

FOR SPORTS, NON-SPORTS AND COLLECTABLE GAMING CARDS

THE NATION'S TOP TRADING CARD EVENT

FREE ADMISSION TO ALL SHOWS
DOORS OPEN 12 NOON

OVER 160 TABLES

THE NATIONAL COLLECTORS MARKETPLACE

2004 SUNDAY AUGUST 1

ROYAL NATIONAL HOTEL
BEDFORD WAY
LONDON WC1

2000 AD
ACTION FIGURES
ANIME
BABYLON 5
BRITISH COMICS
COMIC BOOK SUPPLIES
GAMING CARDS
GOLDEN AGE COMICS
HEROCLIX
LATEST IMPORT COMICS
NON-SPORTS CARDS
ORIGINAL ARTWORK
POKEMON
SILVER AGE COMICS
SPORTS CARDS
SCI FI/FANTASY
STAR TREK
STAR WARS
TOYS
TRADING CARD SUPPLIES
VIDEOS

The National, with 160 tables is the largest regular marketplace for comicbook and trading card collectors in the U.K. You will also find a whole range of related materials including Sci-fi, Fantasy, Film, TV and Toys fromleading British & International dealers.

HOW TO GET THERE. BUS: 7, 59, 68, 91, 168 or 188 to Russell Square or Woburn Place. UNDERGROUND: Piccadilly Line to Russell Square. NATIONAL RAIL: Euston and Kings Cross are within walking distance.

FUTURE DATE: 3RD OCTOBER 2004

Dealers: for table availability phone 020 747 66 873

www.comicmart.co.uk

Events

A summary of all the events advertised this issue

June

19/6 Manchester: Comic Mart & Card Show, Sachas Hotel, Tib Street, Piccadilly, Manchester ..... (p56)
20/6 Liverpool: Comic Mart & Card Show, Gladstone Hotel, Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool ..... (p56)
22/6 Nottingham: Comic Mart & Card Show, Victoria Leisure Centre, Gedling Street, Nottingham ..... (p56)

July

3/7 Leeds: Comic Mart & Card Show, Leeds Metropolitan University, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way, Leeds ..... (p56)
4/7 London: Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, London ..... (p66)
10/7 Newcastle: Comic Mart & Card Show, University of Northumbria, Students' Union Ballroom, Sandyford Road ..... (p56)
11/7 London: Card Mart, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street ..... (p66)
17/7 Birmingham: Comic Mart & Card Show, The Clarendon Suites, Hagley Road, Birmingham ..... (p56)
31/7 Sheffield: Comic Mart & Card Show, The Royal Society for the Blind, Main Hall, Mappin Street (off West Street) ..... (p56)

August

1/8 London: The National Collectors' Marketplace, The Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way ..... (p66)
7/8 Manchester: Comic Mart & Card Show, Sachas Hotel, Tib Street, Piccadilly, Manchester ..... (p56)
8/8 Liverpool: Comic Mart & Card Show, Gladstone Hotel, Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool ..... (p56)
14-15/8 Birmingham: Memorabilia '04, The NEC ..... (p30)
14/8 Leeds: Comic Mart & Card Show, Leeds Metropolitan University, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way, Leeds ..... (p56)
21/8 Nottingham: Comic Mart & Card Show, Victoria Leisure Centre, Gedling Street, Nottingham ..... (p56)
28/8 Glasgow: Glasgow Comic & Card Mart, Henry Wood Hall, Claremont Street, Glasgow ..... (p29)

September

5/9 London: Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, London ..... (p66)
11/9 Birmingham: Comic Mart & Card Show, The Clarendon Suites, Hagley Road, Birmingham ..... (p56)
24/9 Newcastle: Comic Mart & Card Show, University of Northumbria, Students' Union Ballroom, Sandyford Road ..... (p56)
25/9 Manchester: Comic Mart & Card Show, Sachas Hotel, Tib Street, Piccadilly, Manchester ..... (p56)

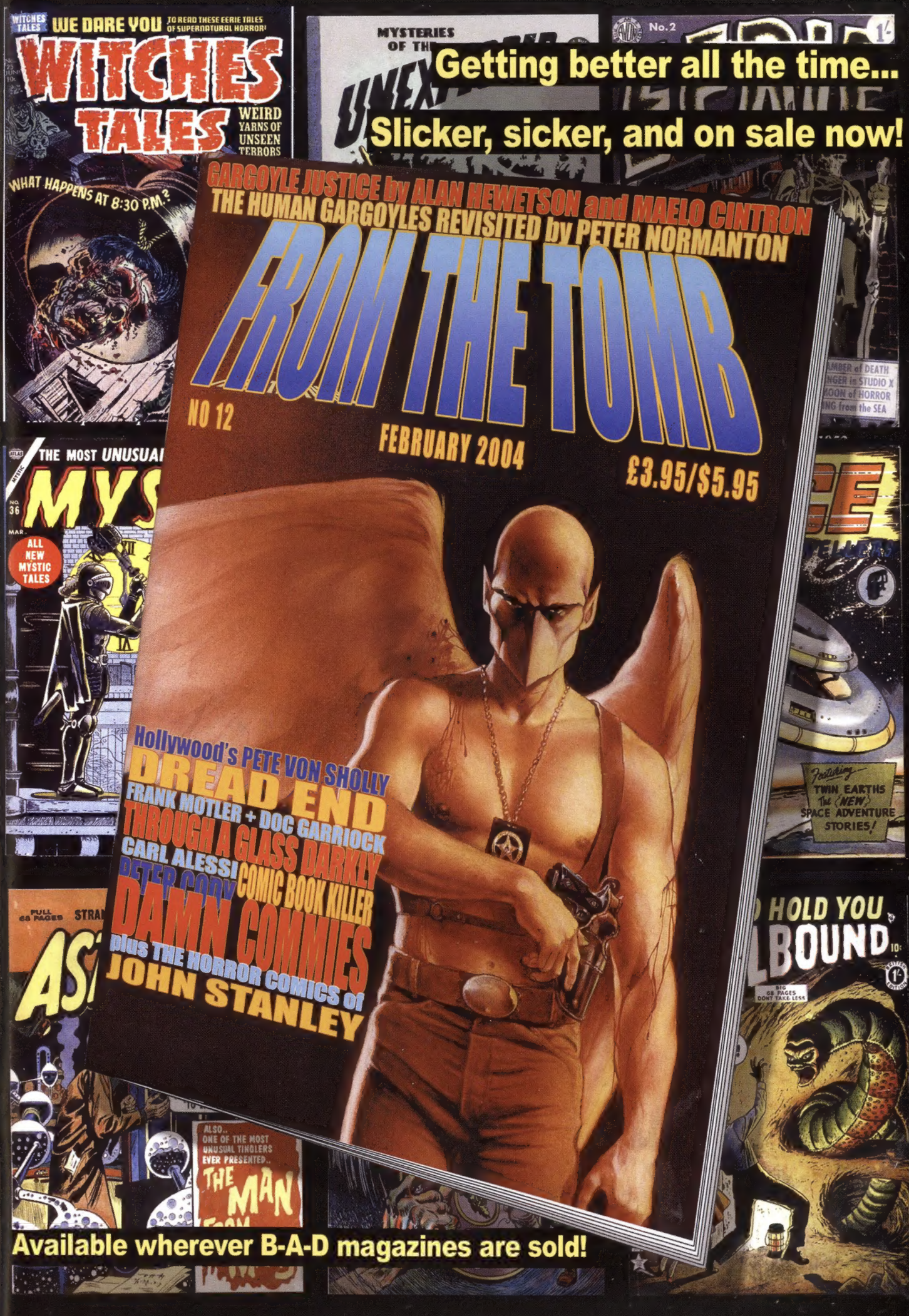
October

2/10 Leeds: Comic Mart & Card Show, Leeds Metropolitan University, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way, Leeds ..... (p56)
3-10 London: The National Collectors' Marketplace, The Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way ..... (p66)
11/10 Glasgow: Glasgow Comic & Card Mart, Henry Wood Hall, Claremont Street, Glasgow ..... (p29)
16/10 Newcastle: Comic Mart & Card Show, University of Northumbria, Students' Union Ballroom, Sandyford Road ..... (p56)
23/10 Sheffield: Comic Mart & Card Show, The Royal Society for the Blind, Main Hall, Mappin Street (off West Street) ..... (p56)

November

5-7/11 Bristol: Comic Expo & ProCon1, Ramada Hotel, Bristol ..... (p47)
7/11 London: The National Collectors' Marketplace, The Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way ..... (p66)

Please note: the above listing of UK comics, trading card and related events is free to Comics International display advertisers only.


WITCHES TALES
WE DARE YOU TO READ THESE EERIE TALES OF SUPERNATURAL HORROR!
WITCHES TALES
WEIRD YARNS OF UNSEEN TERRORS
WHAT HAPPENS AT 8:30 P.M.?
MYSTERIES OF THE
No. 2
Getting better all the time...
Slicker, sicker, and on sale now!
GARGOYLE JUSTICE by ALAN HEWETSON and MAELO CINTRON
THE HUMAN GARGOYLES REVISITED by PETER NORMANTON
FROM THE TOMB
NO 12
FEBRUARY 2004
£3.95/$5.95
THE MOST UNUSUAL
MYS
NO. 36
MAR.
ALL NEW MYSTIC TALES
Hollywood's PETE VON SHOLLY
DREAD END
FRANK MOTLER + DOC GARRIOCK
THROUGH A GLASS DARKLY
CARL ALESSI
COMIC BOOK KILLER
DAMN COMMIES
plus THE HORROR COMICS of
JOHN STANLEY
Featuring TWIN EARTHS The (NEW) SPACE ADVENTURE STORIES!
HOLD YOU
BOUND
ALSO.. ONE OF THE MOST UNUSUAL TINGLERS EVER PRESENTED..
THE MAN
Available wherever B-A-D magazines are sold!

ART ASYLUM PRESENTS MARVEL MILESTONES
CAPTAIN AMERICA™
Captain America™, the embodiment of the American spirit, is captured perfectly in this 12-inch Marvel Milestones statue, sculpted by Eli Livingston of Art Asylum. Featuring a real cloth flag, this statue is limited to 2,500 pieces worldwide and includes a full-color, hand-numbered Certificate of Authenticity.
Includes 2 flags: damaged and pristine.
Base sculpted by Scott Derman
MARVEL and all related characters: TM & © 2004 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. www.marvel.com. Diamond Select Toys and Collectibles is a trademark of Diamond Select Toys and Collectibles, LLC. © 2004 Diamond Select Toys and Collectibles. All Rights Reserved. Art Asylum™ and the Art Asylum Logo are trademarks of The Art Asylum Inc. ARR. Final product may vary.
MARVEL
www.marvel.com
DIAMOND
www.diamondselecttoys.com
ART ASYLUM
www.artasylum.com
COMIC SHOP LOCATOR SERVICE
888-COMIC-BOOK